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NEWS RELEASE

VON CANADA TAKES STEPS TO ENGAGE HEALTH CARE EXPERTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HOME CARE IN CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2007 (Ottawa, ON) -- As our population ages and more and more Canadians want to be cared for, and die in their own homes, VON Canada is not waiting for governments to take up the challenge of ensuring our home care system is able to withstand the growing demand. Rather, Canada's only national, not for profit, charitable home and community care organization is taking the lead and launching a survey that will help it shape its vision for home care in Canada.

The utilization of home care is the fastest growing sector in health care. Between 1995-2002, the number of Canadians receiving home care increased by over 60% however, funding and planning has not matched the demand.¹ This places Canadians of all ages and stages in life at risk.

"Despite the increased reliance on the home care sector, there has been little progress at the national level to ensure Canadians have access to comprehensive, high quality care in their homes. Home care, how we support caregivers and communities can no longer be an afterthought for governments," said Dr. Judith Shamian, President & CEO of VON Canada. "For more than 110 years, VON has been providing innovative solutions to address some of Canada's most challenging health care concerns - this is no different."

The organization known for delivery of nursing, personal support, post acute care assistance and its charitable programs is asking interested Canadians 10 questions in the areas of:

- Comprehensiveness, Coordination, and Integration of Home Care system
- Caregivers, Client-Centred Care, and Client Safety
- Health Human Resources and Technology
- Research and Data Collection

"VON takes its responsibility to advocate for a robust health care system very seriously," said Dr. Shamian. "That is why we continue to champion issues including family and friend caregivers, community based health care and health services for our Aboriginal people."

¹ Canadian Home Care Association, 2004

Survey results will be analyzed and prepared in the form of recommendations to the VON Canada National Board and once approved will be ratified by members of VON. The organization will then prepare recommendations for all levels of government to consider as they prepare their budgets and mandates.

The survey can be found at www.von.ca

VON is dedicated to being a leader in the delivery of innovative comprehensive health and social services and to influencing the development of health and social policy in Canada. We are a national health organization and registered charity offering a wide range of community health care solutions that meet the needs of Canadians from coast to coast. VON is committed to continuous quality improvement and is accredited by the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation.

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