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## NEWS RELEASE

### **VON PRESIDENT AND CEO DONATES \$100,000 TO SUPPORT LEADERSHIP EDUCATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 7, 2007 (Ottawa, ON)**— VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) Canada Foundation is pleased to announce that Dr. Judith Shamian has committed a charitable gift of more than \$100,000 to support VON leadership education.

Over the next five years, Dr. Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada, will provide a minimum gift of \$20,000 per year. The resulting endowment, the Dr. Judith Shamian Fund, will provide annual bursaries to advance leadership and management education for VON staff across the country.

“I am pleased to be able to provide this support to a cause that is so near to my heart, as both a Registered Nurse, and the President and CEO of VON Canada,” stated Dr. Shamian. “This Fund will continue to strengthen VON’s ability to address the escalating need for home and community care for generations to come by providing better access to leadership education and training for its staff.”

“VON’s 16,000 staff and volunteers provide care that allows people to remain in their homes and communities. They care for isolated and lonely seniors, people facing the end of life and many who are coping with illnesses and disease,” said Ambrose Hearn, Chair of the Board of VON Canada Foundation. “We extend sincere appreciation to Dr. Shamian for this momentous and inspiring gift. This truly cements Judith’s legacy and helps ensure that VON has strong leadership in place, as we continue through the organization’s second century of caring.”

The inaugural Dr. Judith Shamian Awards for Leadership Education will be presented to successful applicants at VON Canada’s next Annual General Meetings and National Conference, being held in September 2008 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

“I invite and encourage others to join me in supporting the great work of VON,” stated Dr. Shamian. “As we enter the holiday season and the close of another year, please consider making a generous charitable gift to VON Canada Foundation. Together, we can ensure that VON will be there for you and your loved ones when you are in need of care.”

VON Canada Foundation extends an invitation to all to add their support with a gift or pledge to support to help build the Dr. Judith Shamian Fund, or to consider another form of charitable gift to VON Canada Foundation or one of VON's 51 sites across the country. For more information or to make a gift or pledge of support, visit [www.voncanadafoundation.ca](http://www.voncanadafoundation.ca) or call the VON Canada Foundation office at (905) 415-1208, Ext. 5129.

Dr. Judith Shamian has served as President and CEO of VON Canada since 2004. Prior to being named to this post, she was the Executive Director of Canada's Office of Nursing Policy and is a former President of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, former Vice-President of Nursing at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto, and has held various academic positions since 1989. She holds a PhD in Nursing, a Master's Degree in Public Health and BScN in Community Nursing, in addition to two honorary doctorate degrees. She is also a recipient of the Ross Award for Nursing Leadership and has been awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal by the Governor General of Canada.

VON Canada Foundation raises funds to support the work of VON across Canada. The Foundation provides funding for education, research and program development initiatives, all of which ensure that VON will continue to deliver home care and community support programs to Canadians when and where they need them.

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.

For further information visit [www.von.ca](http://www.von.ca) and [www.voncanadafoundation.ca](http://www.voncanadafoundation.ca)

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