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For Immediate Release

**VON Canada Encouraged by New Brunswick's
Increased Funding for Home Care Services**

Fredericton, March 14, 2007 – VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) is encouraged by the Government of New Brunswick's budget, which announced an increase of \$38.7 million earmarked to improve access, quality of care and affordability for seniors requiring nursing home care, and care in the home. This increase is part of the \$67.4 million extra funding for the Department of Family and Community Services, an increase of 8.4 per cent.

"The Province of New Brunswick has more appropriately and responsibly funded a sector that is in desperate need," says Joy MacDonald, Vice President and Chief of Practice, VON Canada Eastern Region. "With an aging population in New Brunswick, home and community care is playing an increasingly significant role in ensuring access to quality services."

One of VON's largest programs in New Brunswick is visiting home nursing and home support, providing service primarily to seniors who choose to remain living independently in their own homes. Each year, VON provides more than 40,000 visits in home and community settings. This additional funding will allow more people to receive care in their homes and communities, reducing the burden on the acute care and long term care sectors.

VON remains committed to improving the health of the people of New Brunswick and looks forward to working with the Province as they continue to deliver on the Charter for Change.

VON is 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 has earned Canadian Council of Health Services accreditation.

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