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NEWS RELEASE

VON CANADA ELECTS NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, ON – October 21, 2006 – At a time when the need for home and community care is growing, one of Canada's leading national, not-for-profit, charitable home and community care organizations is strengthening its National Board of Directors with the appointment of five new Board members who offer senior experience in health care systems, aboriginal health, community capacity building, information technology and education and training.

The Board has a responsibility to respect and honour the organization's 109 year history and a mandate to build a firm and solid place within the current Canadian health care system to allow more Canadians and their families to benefit from the compassionate and sensitive health care and social support services provided from coast to coast to coast.

At the same time, the Board of Directors will be leading the organization through some major initiatives including:

- empowering community boards to advocate for policy changes in home and community care and raise funds for charitable programs;
- updating bylaws to 2006/2007; and,
- shepherding the organization through the final stages of a transformation to a united organization.

Members of the Corporation of VON Canada approved the following slate of VON Canada Board Members for 2006/2007 at the VON Annual General Meeting in London, Ontario on Friday, October 20, 2006.

The following new Board members were elected:

Dr. Kathryn J. Hannah – Western Region Representative

Dr. Hannah is a nurse and a senior health informatics consultant specializing in information management in health environments. With over 3 years of experience in academia, health care delivery, government and the private sector, Dr. Hannah has a rich depth of knowledge and experience in health care delivery organizations, the health system and nursing.

Mr. Ted Fontaine – Western Region Representative

Mr. Fontaine is the founding Chairman of the Aboriginal Leadership institute, faculty member and advisor of the Banff Centre of Management, Chief of Sagkeeng First Nation and Executive Director of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Mr. Fontaine is a volunteer and member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of the Manitoba and serves as a member of its Winnipeg Council.

Mr. Dean P. La Bute - Central Region Representative

Mr. La Bute has been involved with the VON over the past 11 years. Mr. La Bute was past president of the VON Windsor – Essex County Endowment Foundation and is a member of the VON Canada, Policy and Communications Standing Committee. Mr. La Bute is a member of the United Way Windsor-Essex speakers bureau and a founding member of the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council (Ontario).

Mr. Bob Russell – Eastern Region Representative

Mr. Russell has enjoyed a career in the military, federal Information Technology field and private sector consulting spanning five decades. Mr. Russell participated in, managed or led many large scale IT-based projects and multidisciplinary inter-organizational senior management committees – both strategic and operational.

Dr. John Gilbert – Member at Large

Dr. Gilbert and is the principal of the College of Health Disciplines at UBC and BC's Ministry of Health Services Representative to Health Canada's National Expert Committee on Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centered Practice.

The following new Board members will be appointed to the Board on Sunday, October 22, 2006:

Mr. Ian McLeod –Treasurer

Mr. McLeod worked as the CEO, Executive VP of Member Services, Senior VP of Finance and Administration for Hepco Credit Union limited, now known as Meridian Credit Union Limited. Mr. McLeod has also held senior positions with McLeod Associates, Quorum Growth Inc, Citibank Canada, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board and Investors' Group Inc.

George Filliter- Chair of the Governance Committee

Mr. Filliter was appointed as the Chair of the Labour and Employment Board in New Brunswick in March 2003, after a 25-year career in which he practiced law in the areas of Administrative Law, Labour and Employment Law and General Litigation. Mr. Filliter involvement with VON Fredericton has continued for the last 6 years and for the past 5 years has served on the National Board, most recently as the Chair of the Governance Committee.

Ms. Donna Hutton – Chair of the Policy and Communications Committee

Ms. Hutton is employed with Hutton & Associates Consulting that deals in policy development and government relations. Ms. Hutton served as Executive Director of the Alberta Associations of Registered Nurses and Director of Nursing for the Cross Cancer Institute and the University of Alberta Hospitals.

The Board is made up of the following members:

Ms. Janice McCallum – Chair (former Chair-Elect)

Ms. McCallum is Program Director at the London Health Sciences Centre and is responsible for all areas providing patient services within the Medical Care and Family Medicine/Palliative Care Programs.

Mr. Jim McCaw – Chair- Elect (former Treasurer)

Mr. McCaw is a Partner with the Ottawa office of KPMG and currently leads the Corporate Finance practice in Ottawa. Mr. McCaw is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Business Valuator and Chartered Insolvency & Restructuring Practitioner.

Ms. Hana Gartner – Member at Large

Ms. Gartner is co-host of “The Fifth Estate” and is one of Canada’s top journalists, garnering three Gemini awards and the Gordon Sinclair Award for excellence in broadcast journalism.

Dr. Lynn Nagle – Member at Large

Dr. Nagle, RN PhD, is a consultant with Nagle & Associates Inc., Senior Nursing Advisor to Canada Health Infoway, Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, Immediate Past President of the Canadian Nursing Informatics Association and winner of the Senior Vice President for Technology and Information Management at Mount Sinai Hospital, in Toronto. Lynn was until recently the Senior Vice President for Technology and Information Management at Mount Sinai Hospital, in Toronto.

Dr. Thomas Ward – Member at Large

Dr. Ward, MD, FRCPC, is a health care systems strategist and former paediatrician with a 30-year track record in frontline medical practice, hospital administration, research and government relations. Dr. Ward also served as Deputy Minister of Health in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Michael Ogburn – Eastern Region

Mr. Ogburn is a business development and marketing consultant with his own company, M O Consultants. He participates in many sectors including education, manufacturing, agriculture, aerospace, information technology and healthcare.

Mr. Jack Smith – Central Region

Mr. Smith is retired from Imperial Oil where he was involved in many engineering assignments including Operations Superintendent for the Paramins Department.

Ms. Barbara Jones – Chair of the Pension and Benefits Committee

Ms. Jones was employed with Green Shield Canada as a Manager for Group Sales and Service in Toronto and also worked for Confederation Life/Manulife Financial and for Maritime Life as Multi-disciplinary Manager for Group Insurance. Ms. Jones served as a Member of Pension and Benefits Committee for United Way of Greater Toronto and served as a Member of Pension and Benefits Committee for VON and Board member of VON Durham.

The VON Canada Board of Directors provides leadership in community based, innovative and comprehensive health and social services and helps shape health and social policy in Canada.

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 quality improvement and is accredited by the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation.

Media inquiries:

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