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NEWS RELEASE

IMPROVING CLIENT CARE AT VON'S FINGERTIPS - VON NURSES RECEIVE PDAs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2008 (Ottawa, ON) — Through the push of a button, VON Canada nurses will now have access to essential resources in the client's home. VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) has received over \$350,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) initiative that will enable VON nurses to seek information and consult with one another to improve client care.

VON Peterborough Victoria & Haliburton and VON Hastings, Northumberland & Prince Edward will receive 140 hand held devices and 30 portable computer tablets that will be used by frontline nurses to access tools and educational resources.

"VON is very keen to accelerate the adoption of technology in the community health sector," says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada. "Community health nurses often work alone in the community, travelling large distances in remote and rural communities to provide nursing care to clients. The PDA initiative will help break down the barriers of isolation and provide nurses access to clinical resources and ultimately enhance the quality of care we provide to our clients."

A further benefit is that this technology plays a critical role in supporting client teaching. Nurses can quickly access resources to share with their clients about their health issues and help them to promote wellness opportunities.

The PDA initiative is also in keeping with VON's recruitment and retention strategy that promotes the use of tools to support quality of work life. The PDA initiative will help to demonstrate to VON's current and future nurses, that VON has the tools to support them in community health nursing.

VON has partnered with Telus to deliver on the technology required for the PDA initiative.

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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Media inquiries:

Thea McCarthy
Manager, Public Affairs and Community Engagement
VON Canada
(W) 613-288-3462
(C) 613-203-3117