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Au cœur de la vie depuis 1897*

NEWS RELEASE

VON RAISES AWARENESS OF PATIENT SAFETY IN THE HOME DURING PATIENT SAFETY WEEK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, Ontario – October 20, 2006 – From October 20 to 27, VON, along with other healthcare workers across Canada will be celebrating our progress in making Canada's healthcare system among the very safest in the world. An initiative of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), Canadian Patient Safety Week 2006 will be celebrated in hospitals and healthcare settings from coast to coast to coast.

This year, the national campaign will raise awareness of hand hygiene and the role it plays in reducing healthcare-acquired infections. This year's theme is *Patient Safety: It's in Your Hands. Clean them well. Clean them often.*

"VON is leading the way in raising the issue of patient safety in home and community care because it is an essential component of the health care system," says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada. "Patient safety is a top priority for VON, our clients and their families."

VON is engaged in the following patient safety initiatives:

- Developed an organization wide automated event reporting system which allows VON to better track adverse events and patient safety and risk issues
- Established a patient safety working group to advise the organization on patient safety issues through the lens of the CCHSA Patient Safety Goals and Required Organizational Practices
- Continues to engage in patient safety education in both clinical and non-clinical areas (from hand hygiene {hand washing} to patient safety education in general)
- Working on the development of a blame free / "just" culture by focusing on the educational aspects of patient safety
- Adopted patient safety as an explicit strategic goal
- Partnering with organizations such as the University of Ottawa and the CPSI to advance research in the area of patient safety in home care
- Participate in CCHSA Accreditation

- The Canadian Patient Safety institute (CPSI), VON Canada and Capital Health (Edmonton) partnered in May 2006 to hold a roundtable discussion on patient safety in home care. This roundtable was a critical step towards identifying research priorities in home care safety for Canada. It was attended by participants from all levels of health care across Canada. In preparation for this round table, a background paper was prepared for this invitational event. Please see link below.
[Safety in home care: a background paper for round table discussion](#)
- Collaborated on a CPSI proposal in July 2006, submitted jointly by University of Ottawa and VON Canada in partnership with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), Canadian Institute Health Information (CIHI) and community partners for a study entitled “Safety in Home Care: Perspectives from Patients, Families Members, Caregivers and Providers across three Canadian provinces”.

For more information on Canadian Patient Safety Week 2006,
please visit <http://www.patientsafetyweek.ca/>.

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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.

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