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NEWS RELEASE

SOUTH EAST LHIN “SMILES” ON VON VON SELECTED AS REGIONAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE FOR INNOVATIVE SENIORS PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2008 (Ottawa, ON) – VON Canada - Ontario (Victorian Order of Nurses), through its local sites in Kingston and Trenton, is pleased to announce that it has been selected, by the South East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), as the Regional Management Centre for the SMILE program (Seniors Managing Independent Living Easily). The SMILE program will empower seniors and their caregivers in the South East to access home support services that are individualized to their specific needs.

“This program is an amazing collaborative initiative that focuses on empowering seniors by giving them new options to remain in their homes for as long as possible,” says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO of VON Canada. “VON is delighted to be involved in such an exciting program and we look forward to working closely with all healthcare service providers and the community to further develop and implement this program.”

VON, as the Regional Management Centre for the SMILE program, is responsible for ensuring equitable access to seniors across the region for selected traditional and non-traditional support services and resources (i.e. those that may come from a neighbour or friend, as well as established agencies), for developing and supporting the access portals, for providing service coordination, and for accountability for the performance of the SMILE program to the South East LHIN.

VON will administer the \$9.7M program (over three years) in the region. The South East LHIN Board of Directors also approved the Victorian Order of Nurses as the program administrator. “We are very fortunate in the South East to have a network of terrific home-support care agencies and services. The Victorian Order of Nurses showed that it has the administrative know-how and capabilities, as well as the infrastructure, to support rollout across the region. The VON has demonstrated a true understanding of the philosophy and principles underpinning the program that is necessary to make this work,” says Georgina Thompson, Chair of the South East Local Health Integration Network.

VON will work with the community at large, its partner provider agencies, such as the South East Community Care Access Centre, and other agencies serving seniors to:

- Implement the SMILE functional program plan ;
- Administer a system that allows an individualized service and delivery plan for each senior on the SMILE program, and for accommodating the senior’s choice in the level of assistance with service navigation;
- Establish service contracts with providers that include performance targets, and for funding allocations; and,
- Manage or assist users in handling the transactions needed to pay for aging at home services.

As the regional focal point for the program, the Regional Management Centre will play an integral role in facilitating the provision of comprehensive and standardized information related to the SMILE program and will work collaboratively with existing health service providers, associations and community groups to share information about health services already available in each community.

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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