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NEWS RELEASE

Attention Health and Political reporters

VON CANADA RECRUITS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF OF PRACTICE FOR ONTARIO AS THE ORGANIZATION PREPARES TO TACKLE HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE CHALLENGES

For immediate release

Ottawa, September 25, 2006 -- As VON Canada moves to grow its presence and raise its profile across the country, Canada's largest not for profit, charitable, home and community care organization has recruited a senior level executive from the Government of Ontario.

In a newly created position put in place to ensure that VON Canada can continue to meet the challenges facing the home and community care sector Dr. Sue Matthews will join VON Canada as National Executive Director, Disease Management and Chief of Practice for Ontario effective November 8, 2006.

As the National Executive Director, Dr. Matthews will be responsible for developing the strategy and overall directions for several of VON's new growth initiatives. She will be leading a team involved in developing Chronic Disease Management programs and building a series of programs that will allow VON to provide more services that help Canadians with Chronic Diseases.

As VON's Chief of Practice for Ontario, a role designed to suit her vast skills and experience, Dr. Matthews will lead practice ensuring the enhancement of VON's long history of excellence in clinical care and will support the Care and Service Model with innovative partnerships and approaches.

“Sue is a tremendous addition to the team. Her nursing leadership combined with her knowledge of government will greatly benefit us as we tackle the challenges we are facing in the home and community care sector,” said Dr. Judith Shamian, President & CEO of VON Canada. “VON takes very seriously the quality of care we provide in people’s homes and communities – we are leaders in this field. Sue’s knowledge, vision and experience will play an important role in further enhancing our quality agenda”.

Dr. Matthews is an experienced Nursing Leader having held a variety of positions as a staff nurse, nurse educator, manager, director of inpatient programs, Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice, and now as Provincial Chief Nursing Officer for Ontario, where she is responsible for providing leadership in the development, implementation and evaluation of nursing policies, research and programs, and strategic advice on emerging nursing and health system issues and trends, including leading Ontario’s nursing Strategy. In her current position, Sue advises the government on health and public policy from a nursing perspective.

She holds an R.N Diploma, a Bachelor of Arts in Health Studies, a Master’s of Health Science Nursing, and a Doctorate in Public Health at Charles Sturt University. She is a Fellow of the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia. Sue is also appointed as Clinical Associate Professor at McMaster University and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto.

Sue is a Founder of the Professional Practice Network of Ontario. She has held positions as Treasurer of the Association of Nurse Executives of the Greater Toronto Area, and both Treasurer and President Elect for the Nursing Leadership Network of Ontario. She is the recipient of the RNAO Leadership Award in Nursing Administration for 2002, York Region’s “In Celebration of Women” Award for 2003, was recognized as one of Canada’s top 100 most powerful women by the Women’s Executive Network in 2004, and received the Registered Practical Nurses Association’s President’s Award in 2005. Sue has consistently been involved in provincial activities, with a goal to increasing the health of Ontarians through strong nursing leadership.

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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