



*Touching Lives Since 1897  
Au cœur de la vie depuis 1897*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **VON CELEBRATES VON WEEK ACROSS CANADA**

**For immediate release**

**OTTAWA, May 20, 2008** - Staff and volunteers from across the country will celebrate VON Week from May 18 - 24, 2008, incorporating this year's theme "*Stay @ home with VON™.*"

Across Canada, 16,000 VON (Victorian Order of Nurses) staff and volunteers play a key role in helping Canadians remain independent in their communities and their homes by offering more than 50 different programs and services including in home nursing, caregiver support and education, volunteer visiting, foot care and Meals on Wheels. During VON Week, VON sites will celebrate their achievements and raise awareness in their communities about the important role VON continues to play in the Canadian healthcare system.

"It never ceases to amaze me the remarkable stories I hear about VON staff and volunteers going above and beyond the call of duty to care for someone in their time of need," says Dr. Judith Shamian, President and CEO, VON Canada. "VON week is a great opportunity to celebrate not only their hard work, compassion and dedication but the enormous impact they continue to have on the lives of millions of Canadians each year."

In 2006, VON volunteers provided more than 300,000 meals to Canadians and spent over 28,000 hours visiting with palliative clients. Almost 700 volunteers spent more than 17,500 hours calling clients to ensure they were safe and feeling secure in their own homes.

For more information about VON week activities in your community, please contact your local VON site. Please visit [www.von.ca](http://www.von.ca) and go to Branch Locations.

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 on Health Services Accreditation.

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