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NEWS RELEASE

VON President and CEO Presented with Top 100 Women Award

November 30, 2009 (Ottawa, ON) – VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) is proud to announce that Dr. Judith Shamian, VON President and CEO, has been presented with a *Canada's Most Powerful Women Top 100* award by the Women's Executive Network. These awards are designed to promote the *Top 100* winners as role models and mentors for young Canadians. The Professional category, in which Dr. Shamian was nominated, recognizes women who play a leadership role within their organizations and their fields.

One of the most influential nurses in both Canada and the global health community, Judith Shamian is considered a thought and practice leader. As a role model and mentor, she has encouraged and inspired countless aspiring leaders in both the nursing and non-nursing communities. Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Shamian has influenced Canadian health care policy by bringing knowledge, experience and innovative solutions to broad health system challenges. Her leadership and commitment to nursing and to improving the health of Canadians have had a tremendous impact on our health care system.

Dr. Shamian commented, "I am so honoured to receive this award. The future of the nursing profession, and indeed the entire health profession, rests with the next generation and it is vital we support and encourage their leaders."

As President and CEO of VON Canada since 2004, she has championed the home and community care agenda in Canada, believing that strong and healthy communities are the backbone of a vibrant society. Under her leadership, VON has developed a new Vision for Home and Community Care in Canada: *Health Starts at Home*. Changes for which Dr. Shamian has advocated have helped improve the lives of Canada's 5 million caregivers, who in turn save our healthcare system close to \$25 billion annually. Dr. Shamian is also President-Elect of the Canadian Nurses Association.

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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 continuous quality improvement and is accredited by Accreditation Canada.

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