



April 20, 2011

Dear Nurse Colleagues,

With election day fast approaching, your participation in the federal campaign grows increasingly important. I urge you to get involved. Please visit CNA's [Elections 2011 website](#) for tools and resources to help you add your voice to the thousands of nurses across Canada who are pressing for health system reform. Go beyond simply exercising your right to vote. Engage people around you on health issues. Explain to them exactly what's at stake. Leverage your influence and credibility as a trusted health professional to mobilize voters.

Alarming, voter apathy is a growing phenomenon. Young people, in particular, seem to be tuning out the campaign. And yet the stakes are so high – this election will determine who negotiates the next 10-year health accord. Everyone needs to pay attention.

If you are a nurse educator, please take the time to give your students more context so they can make informed choices. Help them understand how today's health system issues will have a profound effect on their career for years to come. Explain to your students that they have the option to vote in the riding where they live while at school or where they live when not at school (e.g., with their parents) – giving them an option to cast their ballots strategically.

Clarify the voting process and encourage students to vote in the advance polls if they have exams or other conflicts on voting day – or if they plan to go home for Easter weekend. **Advanced polls are open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 22nd, Saturday, April 23, and Monday, April 25.** Find out more at [Elections Canada](#).

I also invite you to [follow CNA on Facebook](#) to learn about breaking news during the rest of the campaign – and to find out more about the **14 nurse candidates** running in this election.

This is a vital opportunity to give health care its due as Canada's most important political issue. Let's make every vote count!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Shamian".

Judith Shamian, RN, PhD, LLD (hon), D.Sci. (hon), FAAN
President