



April 12, 2011

Dear Nurse Colleagues,

Canadians have a high degree of trust in nurses because – time and again – they see us working in their best interests. Now that the federal election is underway, it's time for nurses to mobilize. It's time for nurses to come together and leverage our collective influence.

I urge you to do your part in the federal election. Make your voice heard. Engage those around you in promoting major health-care issues – and ask candidates these questions on where they stand:

- What is your position on maintaining Canada's publicly funded, not-for-profit medicare system?
- Will your government invest in more community resources, home care and nursing services to support families and caregivers?
- What is your plan to address the burden that prescription drugs are placing on Canadian families?

Remember, what you *don't* hear candidates say can be just as telling as what they *do* say.

This election is especially important. The party that forms the next government is the one that will broker the next health care accord in 2014 between Ottawa and the provinces and territories. This is a crucial window of opportunity for the federal government to lead the transformation of our health-care system to ensure it meets the current and future needs of Canadians. Let's help citizens make informed choices – and let's get our candidates to make firm commitments and explain where they stand on health care.

Tune in to the English-language leaders' debate tonight, Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. ET.  
The French-language debate airs on Wednesday, April 13, at 8 p.m. ET.

To access the tools CNA has developed to help you connect with candidates, and to find out more about the nursing profession's take on health system issues and the federal election, visit [Elections 2011](http://cna-aiic.ca/Elections2011).

Thank you for making your voice heard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judith Shamian".

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