

CANADIAN
NURSES
ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION DES
INFIRMIÈRES ET
INFIRMIERS DU CANADA

Via e-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

May 27, 2011

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), we wish to express our sincere congratulations on your re-election as both member of Parliament for Calgary Southwest and as prime minister. With health care a repeated top priority of Canadians, it's clear that strong federal leadership in this area is essential. As you prepare to open the 41st Parliament, CNA encourages you to keep two key health priorities within sight:

- bringing pharmacare and home care under insured services to ensure access to safe, affordable prescription drugs and necessary resources to support Canadians in their communities; and
- strengthening health policy and funding toward community-based care, health promotion and prevention and management of non-communicable diseases.

We are encouraged by your comments during the campaign about collaborating with the provinces and territories to renew the health accord and maintain the six per cent escalator in federal health transfer payments. And we concur that setting targets to improve health outcomes and quality care is an important priority and central to the government's desire for accountability in health-care spending. An important next step in negotiating the next health accord is to engage with nurses and other health professionals to effectively draw upon their knowledge and expertise on the best use of health-care system resources.

Canada's nurses also recognize that money alone cannot fix what is ailing health care today – nor will it prepare us for the health system challenges of tomorrow. Our aging population, the alarming rise in chronic disease and an increasingly serious shortage of health professionals require a pragmatic forward-looking plan of action that ensures our publicly funded health-care system meets the needs of Canadians.

CNA's capacity to address these and other health priorities is significant, and we look forward to working with you and your government to advance them. We would be pleased to meet with you at any time to discuss ways we can work together to strengthen our health-care system.

Again, congratulations on your election. CNA wishes you well in your work to advance health for all Canadians in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

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

Rachel Bard, RN, M.A.Ed.
Chief Executive Officer

CNA is the national professional voice of registered nurses in Canada. A federation of 11 provincial and territorial nursing associations and colleges representing 143,843 registered nurses, CNA advances the practice and profession of nursing to improve health outcomes and strengthen Canada's publicly funded, not-for-profit health system.