CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES INFIRMIÈRES ET INFIRMIERS DU CANADA

January 29, 2015

Hon. James Moore, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry
Industry Canada
C. D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON   K1A 0H5
minister.industry@ic.gc.ca

Dear Minister Moore:

The Canadian Nurses Association, the national, professional voice of more than 151,000 registered nurses across Canada, is writing to ask you and the government to support Bill C-626 (An Act to amend the Statistics Act (appointment of chief statistician and long-form census)) due to this legislation's importance for the performance of our health-care system.

The information previously collected from the mandatory long-form questionnaire was invaluable for designing, monitoring and delivering safe and effective health care. Today, we still need this level of information if we are to properly allocate resources based on the needs of Canada's distinct communities. High-quality statistical data is also vitally important to our research and education communities and to the many decision-makers responsible for health and social policy.

For these reasons, in 2010 we voiced our opposition to the Minister of Industry's decision to cancel the mandatory long-form census. Unfortunately, the 2011 voluntary National Household Survey did not provide the kind of strong, reliable data that enables health-care professionals to develop, deliver and evaluate programs and initiatives that support federal, provincial and territorial objectives to improve the performance of our health system.

On February 4, you and the government have the opportunity to reinstate this valuable research and planning tool. We therefore ask you, as Minister of Industry, to lead your colleagues in the Conservative caucus in support of Bill C-626. By voting for Bill C-626, you'll be helping nurses, doctors, researchers, educators, health administrators and others deliver the best possible health care to Canadians.

Sincerely,

Karima Velji, RN, PhD, CHE
President

cc: Ted Hsu, M.P.