



September 21, 2010

OPEN LETTER FROM THE CNA PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues:

**CNA Urging World Leaders to Show Genuine Commitment to Achieving
UN Millennium Development Goals**

On behalf of Canada's registered nurses (RNs), CNA is urging government leaders meeting in New York this week to make real progress on achieving the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs). These global targets in the fight against disease, hunger and poverty apply to all of us, and we must live up to our commitments.

While there has been some success, the news overall is not good; progress on the goals has been unacceptable 10 years into a 15-year mandate. Political leadership, critical investments and urgent implementation are needed. Over one billion people live in extreme poverty and hunger. Maternal mortality and maternal health have seen little improvement. HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases continue to cause tremendous hardship worldwide. And gender equality remains a dream for many.

CNA believes in healthy public policy both in Canada and internationally and is urging world leaders to redouble their efforts on the MDG targets. Setbacks such as the global recession, extreme weather events and rising food prices are no excuses for failure. In fact, these obstacles show how important it is for leaders to stay focused on achieving the MDGs.

All countries, but particularly wealthy countries such as Canada, have an obligation to act on their development commitments and show leadership on achieving the MDGs. CNA therefore calls upon the federal government to work harder on combating climate change. CNA also urges Canadian leaders to do more to support harm reduction to reduce the spread of HIV.

Canada's RNs are united with their global colleagues in working on ways to achieve the MDGs. We join the millions worldwide who want a more healthy and equitable future.

Sincerely,

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

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