



OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Re: World AIDS Day, December 1, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

I invite you to join me today, World AIDS Day, to acknowledge the many contributions that registered nurses (RNs) are making around the world to address HIV/AIDS. We can be proud of the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) long-standing support to global HIV/AIDS research and policy development initiatives through its global health partnerships. As part of the Teasdale Corti Initiative, for example, CNA helps to strengthen RNs' capacity in HIV policy development in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean; with CNA support, the Southern African Network of Nurses and Midwives is working to address the stigma associated with AIDS and to educate nurses and the public about how to protect themselves; and the Ethiopian Nurses Association is focusing on HIV as part of the occupational health and safety of nurses.

In Canada we recognize the important contribution and commitment of the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care — one of CNA's associate members — toward fostering excellence in HIV/AIDS nursing; promoting the health, rights and dignity of persons affected by HIV/AIDS; and preventing the spread of HIV. Recently, the United Nations' General Assembly noted that the spread of HIV is often a consequence and cause of poverty, and affirmed in its June 2011 political declaration on HIV/AIDS that "HIV and AIDS constitute a global emergency, [and] pose one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of our respective societies and the world at large."

This year's theme for World AIDS Day is "Getting to Zero": zero discrimination, zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths. While we recognize that so much more needs to be done, we take this opportunity today to celebrate the efforts of RNs worldwide toward reducing all aspects of HIV/AIDS to zero.

Sincerely,

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