

## News Release

For Immediate Release

### Nursing Week – a Time to Celebrate

**Winnipeg – May 11, 2009** You might be surprised at the wide variety of places and roles in which you'll find a registered nurse in Manitoba these days, according to Kathy Doerksen RN, President of the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. She made the remark as Nursing Week kicked off in Manitoba. Nursing Week takes place May 11 – 17 throughout Canada. Nursing Week coincides with the birthday of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

“Registered nurses practice within the community, in people’s homes, in long-term care facilities, schools, universities and hospitals throughout Manitoba,” Doerksen said. “Registered nurses are specialists within their practice area and that degree of specialization and clinical expertise benefits Manitobans through the care they receive everyday.”

The Canadian Nurses Association recognizes 19 areas of specialized knowledge and expertise which are part of a nationally recognized certification program. In addition, registered nurses practice in a number of roles and settings which have specialized aspects to their practice.

The purpose of Nursing Week is to raise awareness about the many contributions registered nursing makes to the well-being of Manitobans. It provides an opportunity to educate Manitobans about important health issues, to share information they need to make good decisions about their health, and to promote the critical role of registered nurses in our health system.

“The College is proud to present an ongoing public awareness campaign featuring messages about proper handwashing and the right way to cough and sneeze,” Kathy Doerksen noted. “As a result of these messages, half of those people who watched the ads reported that they changed their behaviour in a more healthy way. We are pleased to have been a part of those healthy decisions.”

The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba is the professional regulatory and standards organization for registered nurses in Manitoba. It is governed by an eighteen-member board of directors - two thirds are registered nurses and one third public representatives. The College exists to protect the public. We do this by setting standards for registered nursing care, supporting registered nurses in meeting those standards and taking corrective action when the standards are not met.

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