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2009 Annual Meeting
Assemblée annuelle de 2009

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Bonjour! C'est avec plaisir que je vous souhaite la bienvenue à Ottawa à l'occasion de l'assemblée annuelle de 2009 de l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Canada.

Au nom des membres du Conseil d'administration, de la direction et des 136 000 infirmières et infirmiers et plus qui sont membres de l'Association, j'ai le privilège de passer quelques instants avec vous pour vous présenter un aperçu de nos principales activités et réalisations au cours de la dernière année.

Everything we do at CNA is with the fundamental understanding that we are working *in the public interest* to provide solutions to sustain and preserve the publicly funded health system. Our bylaws very clearly state this in the association's three objects, which are:

- to promote high standards of nursing practice, education, research and administration in order to achieve quality nursing care in the public interest;
- to promote uniform and high-quality regulatory practices in the public interest and in collaboration with nursing regulatory bodies; and
- to act in the public interest for Canadian nursing and nurses, providing national and international leadership in nursing and health issues.

With those principles in mind, I'd like to highlight just a few of the many new tools and resources we've produced over the previous 12 months.

I am particularly pleased to tell you about our recent launch of two new online databases. The first, called the Nursing Innovations Exchange, is a place where registered nurses can share their best practices and innovative ideas on how they are dealing with specific challenges. La deuxième est la base de données

Connexions infirmières mondiales, qui offre aux infirmières et infirmiers travaillant en santé internationale un point de rencontre et de réseautage entre collègues. Nous avons reçu d'excellentes réponses aux deux bases de données, et nous avons hâte de les voir grandir et devenir des outils essentiels de grande valeur sur le site Web de l'AIC.

Another exciting development occurred in October 2008 when we produced our first webcast called "Take your future for a test drive" — to coincide with the publication of two documents: CNA's *Preferred Future: Health for All* and *Signposts for Nursing*. The webcast was extremely well received. In its first week of availability on our website, it was viewed by more than 1,000 people. Les documents sur l'avenir que l'AIC privilégie et les balises ont suscité des discussions grandement nécessaires sur l'état actuel de notre système de soins de santé public et sur l'avenir des soins infirmiers au Canada. Par conséquent, le document sur l'avenir privilégié des soins infirmiers a depuis connu une certaine évolution à l'aide de consultations effectuées auprès de plus de 20 organismes partenaires nationaux en soins de santé et conseillers en soins infirmiers des gouvernements fédéral et provinciaux et territoriaux.

Our work in administering the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination continues, with more than 10,000 candidates writing the exam over the last year. We also led the development of the new competencies for the 2010-2015 exam cycle, which were approved in December and published last month. CNA has developed communications strategies for the jurisdictions to use to inform educators about the availability of the new CRNE Blueprint and what its significant changes are. A new CRNE Prep Guide that corresponds to the exam's new competencies has been developed and is currently in production.

The CNA Certification Program also continues to grow, and now consists of 18 specialties, with the recent addition of enterostomal therapy nursing. Almost 2,000 candidates wrote this year's certification exams, and there are currently more than 15,000 CNA certified nurses across the country. Exam development and promotion of the medical-surgical nursing certification specialty is underway and on track for the 2010 exam sitting.

One of the centrepieces of CNA's work is the code of ethics, and we were pleased with the success of the launch during last year's convention of the 2008 Centennial Edition of the *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*. Since then it has been downloaded at an astounding rate... more than 835,000 times in a little less than 12 months. We have also continued to support and promote this important document by producing additional resources that help nurses to integrate the Code in their everyday practices.

Over the last year, we have established a new organizational structure for the NurseONE portal within CNA and developed an integration plan for all of CNA's electronic products, including NurseONE, the CNA website and the online *Canadian Nurse* journal. We are proud of the growth of NurseONE as a leader in knowledge management, and will continue to develop this tool by providing new content and features on a regular basis. More than 17,000 users were registered with NurseONE as of April 2009. We are well-positioned on the health informatics agenda, and have worked hard to become a source of innovative solutions, particularly in information and communications technologies.

Conformément à notre mandat de travailler dans l'intérêt du public, l'AIIC a été un des membres fondateurs, en collaboration avec la Fédération canadienne des syndicats d'infirmières/infirmiers, du groupe Les infirmières et infirmiers pour l'assurance-maladie, une initiative qui encourage les infirmières et infirmiers à préconiser la viabilité du système de santé canadien. Nous avons récemment publié plusieurs rapports retentissants, dont l'un portait sur les temps d'attente et un autre sur les solutions à la pénurie d'effectifs infirmiers. Les deux ont attiré un intérêt considérable de la part des médias et suscité des discussions à l'échelle nationale.

In our international work, the CIDA-funded Strengthening Nurses, Nursing Networks and Associations Program continued its work, with professional support delivered in conjunction with nursing associations in our partner countries in the developing world. CNA staff and jurisdictional partners made technical missions to El Salvador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nicaragua and Vietnam.

And finally, it was a busy year for events, with many activities taking place over the last 12 months. More than 1,100 people attended the biennial convention last June in Ottawa, and more than 500 nurses participated in February's Nursing Leadership Conference in Toronto. In the last half of our centennial year we saw the unveiling of the official CNA coat of arms and Canada Post's commemorative stamp, and we also celebrated the achievements of 100 amazing nurses with our Centennial Awards event in November.

I have only been able to touch on just a few of our key accomplishments over the last year, and I encourage all of you to read the annual report and the board report that are included in your meeting kits to find out more about our recent activities. Je suis tellement fière d'être la directrice générale d'une association nationale aussi vivante et vibrante, et j'ai hâte de poursuivre notre travail en tant que porte-parole de la valeur de la profession infirmière et des soins infirmiers au Canada.

Thank you. Merci.