

## **New National Fund to Support Internationally Educated Nurses** Canadian Nurses Foundation Announces RBC Diversity in Nursing Fund

OTTAWA, May 16, 2008 – The Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) and RBC together are celebrating National Nursing Week, May 12-16, 2008, by establishing the RBC Diversity in Nursing Fund. This new \$25,000 fund enhances RBC's commitment to diversity by supporting the integration of internationally educated nurses into Canada's health-care system.

Administered by the Canadian Nurses Foundation, the RBC Diversity in Nursing Fund will provide bursaries to internationally educated nurses or IENs. These bursaries will subsidize the cost of bridging programs, including language training, enabling IENs to practise in Canada.

"Supporting and nurturing internationally educated nurses who choose to live and work in Canada is part of the solution to meeting today's nursing demand," said Lucille Auffrey, chief executive officer of the Canadian Nurses Association and president of the Canadian Nurses Foundation board of directors. "By providing funding for bridging programs we offer support for IENs who wish to contribute to the Canadian workforce at their fullest potential."

"We are very pleased with RBC's generous contribution of \$25,000 to establish the Canadian Nurses Foundation RBC Diversity in Nursing Fund as diversity plays a large role in Canada's better patient care solution," said H el ene Sabourin, executive director, Canadian Nurses Foundation.

"Diversity is definitely a competitive advantage in Canada, and we believe that organizations, cities and businesses that leverage diversity will be more sustainable over the long haul," said Shari Austin, vice-president and head, Corporate Citizenship, RBC. "Nursing is critical to Canada's health-care system, which is why RBC is honoured to provide this \$25,000 donation to the Canadian Nurses Foundation to establish the RBC Diversity in Nursing Fund."

In 2006, IENs represented 7.5% of Canada's registered nurses, or 19,836 nurses, with the number of IENs applying for licensure increasing three-fold in many jurisdictions in recent years. CNF and CNA recognize the right for individuals to migrate but do not support the unethical recruitment practices of nurses.

The Canadian Nurses Foundation is Canada's only national nursing foundation devoted to the advancement of nursing knowledge through research and scholarships, with the ultimate vision of superior patient outcomes.

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