



**NURSE PRACTITIONERS'  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO**



Registered Nurses'  
Association of Ontario

L'Association des  
infirmières et infirmiers  
autorisés de l'Ontario

**Toronto, May 11, 2009** – What can a nurse practitioner do for you? As National Nursing Week begins, the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), will launch a public awareness campaign to answer that question and inform people about this most valuable health-care role.

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are registered nurses with advanced education and legislative authority, who help you keep healthy, diagnose and treat common illnesses and injuries, prescribe medications, and order lab tests, x-rays and other diagnostic tests. In the 11 years the role has been legally recognized in Ontario, nurse practitioners have expanded their reach and work in every sector of the health-care system from hospitals and community clinics to long-term care homes, home care and family health teams.

“This is a role we are extremely proud of and yet, many people still aren't aware of the knowledge and skills of nurse practitioners. That's why we are launching this campaign so that people across Ontario will have more information about NPs and the part they can play in their health care,” says RNAO president Wendy Fucile.

“NPs are really addressing many challenges facing our health-care system. They are reducing wait times in emergency departments, increasing access to primary health care in family health teams, community health centres, and NP-led clinics, and reducing transfers of elderly residents from long-term care homes to hospitals. They are bringing their knowledge and leadership to health-care teams and making sure people get the care they need and deserve,” says NPAO president Tina Hurlock-Chorostecki.

In addition to educating people about the role in general, the campaign focuses on towns and cities where patients do not have access to a primary care provider, says Doris Grinspun, executive director of RNAO. “The McGuinty government has announced that 25 additional NP-led clinics will open in Ontario shortly. This will allow people to immediately have access to meet their health care needs, and that's why this campaign is so important. We are saying to the public: ‘Call your MPP to get an NP-Led Clinic,’” adds Grinspun.

#### **WHO:**

- Wendy Fucile, President, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
- Doris Grinspun, Executive Director, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
- Tina Hurlock-Chorostecki, President, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario
- Jane Sanders, Executive Director, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario

**WHAT:** Media conference to launch public awareness campaign about the role of nurse practitioners.

**WHERE:** East End Community Health Centre, 1619 Queen Street East (at Coxwell), Toronto.

**WHEN:** Monday, May 11, 2009 at 10 a.m.

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is the professional association representing registered nurses wherever they practise in Ontario. Since 1925, RNAO has lobbied for healthy public policy, promoted excellence in nursing practice, increased nurses' contribution to shaping the health-care system, and influence decisions that affect nurses and the public they serve.

The Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario (NPAO) represents the professional interests of all nurse practitioners in Ontario. NPAO is an expert group of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. NPAO's mission is to achieve full integration of nurse practitioners to ensure accessible, high quality health care for Ontarians.