



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2010

SUN ANNUAL MEETING

WHO: The Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN)
WHAT: SUN 36th Annual Meeting
WHEN: Wednesday, April 14 to Friday, April 16, 2010
WHERE: Don Ross Centre, North Battleford, Saskatchewan

Media are welcome to attend.

NOTE: SUN members may request an in-camera session for internal discussions, in which case media will be asked to be excused during that time.

Keynote speakers will include: the Honorable Don McMorris, Minister of Health and co-signatory to the SUN/Government Partnership Agreement; Dr. Mary Ferguson-Paré and Dr. Debra Bournes from the University Health Network; Suzanne Gordon, award winning journalist and author; Kyla Avis, from Health Quality Council and Linda Silas, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU).

Wednesday, April 14:

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. – The Best of Nursing: Enriching Patient-Centred Practices presentation by Dr. Mary Ferguson-Paré, RN, PhD and Dr. Debra Bournes, RN, PHD

Dr. Ferguson-Paré is Vice-President, Professional Affairs and Chief Nurse Executive at University Health Network, which comprises Toronto General, Toronto Western and Princess Margaret Hospitals. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Nursing. Her previous experience includes progressive senior nursing management and executive positions in both the acute care and long-term care sectors; nursing education; and institutional and community nursing experience in Psychiatry, Addictions Therapy, Victorian Order of Nurses, Family Practice and Student Health.

She has focused her professional and academic activities on organization and management development within health care and the development of leaders who promote autonomous professional practice and a client centred approach to service.

Dr. Debra Bournes is currently the Director of Nursing, New Knowledge and Innovation at University Health Network. She has had a leadership role in healthcare research and administration for more than 15 years. Dr. Bournes has conducted research guided by nursing theory that draws on, implements, and evaluates key ideas supported by evidence about human lived experiences and extensive health services research on recruitment and retention of nurses.

Her work in nursing theory-guided practice and research, health services research, and leadership has been widely presented and published, sparked international interest, led to collaborations among several provincial healthcare organizations and nursing unions interested in recruitment and retention of nurses, been cited as a promising practice by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, and named a national best practice by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

Thursday, April 15:

9:00 a.m. – Linda Silas, President, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

Linda Silas is the elected President of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, which represents more than 158,000 members and associate members in nine provinces. Linda brings to the CFNU presidency years of experience as a nurse-leader, a public speaker, and a negotiator at the local, provincial, and national levels.

As CFNU President, Linda has helped put solutions to the nursing shortage back on the national agenda. She successfully placed the Pharmacare issue before Canada's premiers at their summer meeting in 2004. She lobbies the premiers, the federal Minister of Health, and key government officials making the case for fixing Medicare and the health human resource shortage in particular.

1:15 p.m. – Presentation by Suzanne Gordon, *"Nursing Out Loud to Promote Patients and Families First"*

Suzanne Gordon is an award-winning journalist and author. She has written for the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, the Atlantic Monthly, the American Prospect, the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star and others. She's the author of seven books including *Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines*, and *Nursing Against the Odds: How Health Care Cost Cutting, Media Stereotypes, and Medical Hubris Undermine Nurses and Patient Care*. Her latest book, *Safety in Numbers: Nurse-to-Patient Ratios and the Future of Health Care* was published by CUP in April 2008. She is also co-author, with playwright Lisa Hayes, of the new play about doctor/nurse relationships entitled *Bedside Manners*.

Friday, April 16:

8:30 a.m. – *Releasing Time to Care*TM presentation by Kyla Avis, Health Quality Council

Kyla Avis is a Registered Nurse with a Master's in Community Health and Epidemiology. After working both here and abroad in both clinical and non-clinical settings, Kyla joined the Health Quality Council in 2008 as a Quality Improvement Consultant and moved to a Program Director in July 2009. She is responsible for the provincial rollout of the Releasing Time to Care program and evaluation as well as Academic Engagement and Physician Engagement programs as HQC.

10:30 a.m. –The Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Health

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If you would like to arrange an interview with one of the speakers before the Annual Meeting, or for more information, please contact: Cheryl Krett, SUN Communications Officer (306) 566-5591 or by cell at 536-3467.