



# Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada

16 Concourse Gate, Unit 600  
Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7S8  
(T): 613-724-4677  
(F): 613-724-4718  
[www.anac.on.ca](http://www.anac.on.ca)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **A.N.A.C CELEBRATES NATIONAL NURSING WEEK May 9 – 15, 2011**

---

The Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (A.N.A.C.) is proud to celebrate the 2011 *National Nursing Week*. This year's theme is *Nursing – the Health of the Nation* reminds Canadians of the immense contribution that nurses make to the well-being of local, provincial and national communities. According to the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), "In 1971, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) designated May 12 – Florence Nightingale's birthday – as International Nurses Day. In 1985, in recognition of the dedication and achievements of the nursing profession, the Canadian Minister of Health proclaimed the second week of May as National Nurses Week."

As the voice of Aboriginal nurses in Canada, A.N.A.C. would like to take this time to recognize *all* nurses who devote their education, passion and lives to improving the lives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples on reserves, in urban centres, and in rural and remote areas from coast-to-coast-to-coast. To this end, celebrations for National Aboriginal Nurses Day will be held at various health facilities across Canada on May 13, 2011.

"On behalf of the A.N.A.C, I send my warmest gratitude to all nurses across this country," offers A.N.A.C President Evelyn Voyageur. "Your contribution to the overall health and well-being of our nation has not gone unnoticed."

Over the years, A.N.A.C, post-secondary institutions, partners and nurses have worked to develop policies, training, and research that address the unique health challenges and cultural intricacies of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. By raising awareness and influencing policy, events such as National Nursing Week reminds us that Aboriginal people, and indeed all Canadians, deserve health care that is relevant, culturally safe and beneficial to individuals, families and communities.

To view the week's events, hosted by the Canadian Nurses Association, please visit [http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/news/events/nursingweek/default\\_e.aspx#events](http://www.cna-aiic.ca/CNA/news/events/nursingweek/default_e.aspx#events). For more information on how to become a nurse, or to learn about the work being done by A.N.A.C, please visit [www.anac.on.ca](http://www.anac.on.ca).

-30-

For more information, please call Audrey Lawrence, Executive Director, A.N.A.C., at 613-724-4677, ext. 23, or send an e-mail to [alawrence@anac.on.ca](mailto:alawrence@anac.on.ca).