



VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES (VON) BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Branch of VON Canada
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Honorary Patron: Her Honour The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

March 1, 2006

Re: VON BC leaves VON Canada; Services will not be affected

For the past 107 years, the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) British Columbia has been proud to provide community-based health and social services in this province as one of the founding branches of VON.

Recently, however, VON's national office decided to restructure the organization so that control of local branches would be based in Ottawa. The national office gave each of the local branches until the end of February to decide to stay with the organization, or opt out.

Our VON BC board spent considerable time reviewing what this change would mean here in our province. After weighing all of the options, we have decided that it is in the best interests of our clients and our local branch to have British Columbians look after the needs of British Columbians. As a result, we are leaving VON Canada and will restructure ourselves as an independent organization with a new name, to be announced soon.

Our name is the only thing that will change. We are still the same organization that has been helping people in BC since 1898. Our people, our services and our commitment to the community remain the same. We will continue to build healthy communities through our Meals on Wheels programs, the Family Respite Centre, the Community Integration Project and Health Promotion Services such as immunizations and health education.

While this change provides us with the independence to focus on local needs, we recognize that you may have some questions or concerns. Please be assured that we will continue our work here in British Columbia, and look forward to building on our relationship with you in the days and years ahead.

Any donations or correspondence you send to us should be addressed to VON BC until our new name is finalized; we will notify you when that occurs. We will keep you updated on future developments, but please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours very truly,

Tom S. Chambers
President, VON BC Board