May 6, 2013

Dear Nursing Colleagues:

Nursing Week is a time to celebrate and reflect on the significant contributions that nurses make to the health and quality of life of the people of Ontario. This year’s theme is: Nursing: A Leading Force for Change. It highlights the vital role that nurses in all sectors play in working collaboratively with one another and with other professions to lead practice, research, education and policy initiatives that strengthen person-centred health care and promote the well-being of people across this province.

There are many challenges in the system and leading change takes courage. John F. Kennedy said, “To be courageous…requires no exceptional qualifications; no magic formula; no special combination of time, place and circumstance. It is an opportunity that sooner or later is presented to us all” when we find something that we believe is worth pursuing. Quality health care and quality work environments are definitely worth pursuing.

In the last year I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many nurses. I have witnessed their courage and their commitment to being leaders who ensure accountability for a quality, person-centered health system and a quality work environment in which to make that person-centered system a reality.

I want to thank all nurses for the courage and the commitment that they live every day as they either facilitate or directly provide personalized and meaningful health care across Ontario. I look forward to sharing Nursing Week with you.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Bournes, RN, PhD
Provincial Chief Nursing Officer

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