

© Canadian Nurses Association, 2011

RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF REGISTERED NURSES AND THEIR ROLE: SHIFTING THE PARADIGM

**Lisa Ashley, RN MEd, CCHN(C)
Senior Nurse Advisor**




1

OBJECTIVES

- Why Canada's health care system needs to move away from acute care → community-based models
- The role that RN's have during this shift



2

Canada's senior population is expected to double by 2036



3

What Else are Politicians & Decision Makers Hearing?

- In 2011, 74-90% of seniors had at least one chronic condition; 25% had two or more
- Chronic diseases cost the Canadian economy \$190 billion annually and consumes 67% of all direct health-care costs

4

What do Canadians think?

- 96% of Canadians believe it is important to be able to age at home with access to health care in a home setting
- 94% support improving federal financial aid for family caregivers who are caring for aging relatives
- 83% want the federal government to fund the health care that seniors need at home
- 94% of Canadians think nurses should have an enhanced role in the delivery of health care to seniors at home

5

DEFINING COMMUNITY

- Community is:
 - Where seniors live, work, learn & play
 - Home can be house, long term care facility, retirement home, etc.



6

Community-based Care

- World Health Organization (WHO) defines it as:
- Services provided to an individual or family in his/her place of residence
- Purpose = promoting, maintaining or restoring health or minimizing the effects of illness and disability.



7

THE ROLE OF THE RN IN PROVIDING COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH CARE FOR SENIORS:

- Client Centered Care
- Comprehensive health assessments
- Prevention, Protection & Preservation of health
- Addressing social determinants of health



8

Common Messages for Patients

- RNs viewed as partners
- RNs provide care WITH patients, not TO them



9

Common Messages for Nurses


- Person-centered care approach
- Provide access to the right services at the right time



10

Common Messages for Employers

- RNs are well positioned to provide leadership & partner with seniors
- RNs are the most effective and efficient resource



11

Common Messages for Organizations

- Seniors need RNs with specialized knowledge and skill
- Helps to meet patients complex, unique & unpredictable needs



12

Common Messages for other Health Care Providers

- Seniors and their family network need support and health education in the community
 - To understand, manage & preserve their health
- RNs skilled health care providers



13

Common Messages for Government

- Seniors population is vulnerable and rapidly growing
- Seniors desire to live at home for as long as possible
- RNs are most effective and efficient resource



14



15

CNA Believes Community Health Nursing:

- Essential part of health care system
- Helps people maintain health & independence in homes & community
- Delays or substitutes acute or long-term facility care
- Supplements care provided by family, friends, and other community based services

16

What are CNA's solutions for the federal government?

- Establish national standards across home health care to ensure all Canadians have equitable access to services that support healthy aging.
- Make the existing Family Caregiver Tax Credit refundable to increase the financial support for Canadians caring for aging relatives.
- Expand the New Horizons for Seniors Program by incorporating a new objective that supports healthy active aging.

17

Key Messages

- RNs practice to their optimal scope
- Nurse-led programs support seniors
- Nursing interventions are cost-effective with +++ health gains for seniors

18

**Thank you
Merci**

lashley@cna-aiic.ca

**LISA ASHLEY, Senior Nurse Advisor,
Canadian Nurses Association**

