Canadian Nurses Association

Message from WHO

Members of the Canadian Nurses' Association and guests, it gives me great pleasure to be on this platform today and to bring you the greetings of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on this your fiftieth anniversary. In saying this I almost feel as though I am congratulating myself because I am a member of the CNA. To be a member of this Association is something of which every one of us may well be proud.

But I must remember that for a few moments I am representing the World Health Organization. I want to tell you officially how much we value the support of the CNA. You may not all be aware of this but your officers have responded many times to requests for information. Your contribution to the Technical Discussions on Nursing at the Ninth World Health Assembly was one of the best. (In fact Pearl McIver who assisted us in the preparation said it was the best. That is not for the press.) We read of the conferences you hold, the research you are carrying on, your recommendations and findings assist us in our work of helping to improve nursing. We frequently call on the Canadian nurses who are members of our Expert Panel on Nursing. And last but not by any means least we appreciate the contribution made by Canadian nurse members of the staff.

The real contribution of WHO in nursing, as well as in other programmes, is at what the want of for/a better term we call the project level. Working in the country with the people of the country. Nearly ~~45%~~ 31 of the project staff of WHO are nurses. Of our present staff of ...., ... are Canadian. In all .... Canadian nurses are either serving or have served on the staff of WHO. We recognize that institutions at home have made a sacrifice to release these nurses - but we think they have gained something also. That is they gain when the nurse returns - we have our problems with marriage in WHO also.

As you know WHO is celebrating its Tenth Anniversary this year. We look forward to the wisdom which the 50th Anniversary will bring. We are sure that

when that time comes and you are having your 90th Anniversary, you will still be in the forefront giving guidance, encouragement, and support to whatever the nursing programme in WHO may be at that time.

Aux infirmières canadiennes françaises je tiens à adresser des remerciements spéciaux de la part de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé. Nous apprécions beaucoup l'aide que nous apportez aux efforts internationaux entrepris dans le domaine des soins infirmiers. Les manuels rédigés en français se sont révélés des plus utiles dans les pays où la langue d'enseignement est le français. Les infirmières canadiennes françaises qui font partie de notre personnel nous ont été d'un secours très précieux grâce à leur maîtrise de l'anglais et du français et à leur aptitude à enseigner dans ces deux langues. Les deux institutions qui ont accepté des boursières de langue française, l'Université de Montréal et l'Institut Marguerite d'Youville, rendent des services inappréciables.

Je vous adresse, à vous et à tous les membres de l'Association des Infirmières canadiennes, les remerciements et les meilleurs vœux du Directeur-général.