

Media Advisory

Nursing groups to present arguments on Insite case before Supreme Court of Canada

Ottawa, May 11, 2011 – Tomorrow, three nursing associations will present arguments before the Supreme Court of Canada in support of Insite, Vancouver’s supervised injection facility.

Lawyers for the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (ARNBC) say there is overwhelming evidence and research that supports the effectiveness of the facility and the care nurses provide.

Representatives from the three associations will be available for comment.

WHO?

- Rachel Bard, Chief Executive Officer, CNA
- Doris Grinspun, Executive Director, RNAO
- Robert Calnan, Co-chair, ARNBC

WHEN? May 12, 2011 – Spokespeople are available for comment throughout the day

WHAT? Nurses argue in favour of Insite and harm reduction

WHERE? Supreme Court of Canada, Ottawa

WHY? **Strong evidence supports the nursing profession’s position that** harm reduction, including supervised injection, is an essential tool in a comprehensive health-care strategy for substance use and addiction

In addition to making copies available of the legal argument, CNA will also release an authoritative study, [*Harm Reduction and Currently Illegal Drugs: Implications for Nursing Policy, Practice, Education and Research*](#), which provides strong evidence in support of harm reduction as a public health approach to reducing the negative consequences of risky behaviours.

The nursing associations are being represented by Rahool Agarwal, Michael Kotrly and John M. Picone from the law firm Ogilvy Renault. Read the [legal argument](#).

CNA is the national professional voice of registered nurses in Canada. A federation of 11 provincial and territorial nursing associations and colleges representing 143,843 registered nurses, CNA advances the practice and profession of nursing to improve health outcomes and strengthen Canada's publicly funded, not-for-profit health system.

The Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario (RNAO) is the professional association representing registered nurses wherever they practise in Ontario. Since 1925, RNAO has advocated for healthy public policy, promoted excellence in nursing practice, increased nurses’ contribution to shaping the health-care system, and influenced decisions that affect nurses and the public they serve.

The Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (ARNBC) was incorporated in July 2010 and represents nurses from all service sectors and domains of practice. The Association’s mandate is to advance the profession’s perspectives in health and social policy initiatives.

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