

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**St. Joseph's Care Group joins Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario  
Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence**

(Thunder Bay, May 12, 2006) Thunder Bay nurses will celebrate nursing accomplishments by learning how they can further harness their privileged position with patients to create positive social changes. They will hear about this topic and others from Doris Grinspun, Executive Director of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) during her visit to Thunder Bay to mark Nursing Week.

"Nurses know that to advocate for people in their care, and make sure they stay healthy, we also need to advocate for many changes in our society at large," says Grinspun, who will join members of RNAO's Lakehead Chapter.

On Friday, May 12, Grinspun will attend a celebration to welcome St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) as a new member of RNAO's renowned Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence.

"Centre membership allows nurses to receive the latest, and best education," says Irmajean Bajnok, director of the RNAO Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence. "Through workshops and other resources provided through Centre membership, nurses have the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills they need for today's ever-changing health care environment."

Mieke Busman, VP and Chief Nursing Officer, SJCG says, "St. Joseph's Care Group is committed to the provision of high quality care for our clients. Membership of St. Joseph's Hospital in the RNAO Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence will support our nurses to achieve personal and professional excellence through knowledge development and evidence based clinical practice. I hope that the RNAO assessment and consultation process will be the catalyst for expanding membership in the RNAO Centre for Professional Nursing Excellence to all nurses within the Care Group"

Grinspun says quality of patient care and nurses' work life, decreasing wait times, protecting and strengthening not-for-profit health care, and the need to find solutions that will prevent a serious nursing shortage are just some of the many issues that nurses must speak out on. Grinspun will talk about how RNAO, with the strength of its 24,000 voluntary members, has become a trusted, reputable source on social and health policy for the public, governments, and employers.

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