



April 23, 2020

To all licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners and registered nurses in Nova Scotia

Colleagues, on behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Canadian Nurses Association, please accept our sincere condolences as you carry the loss of so many of your fellow citizens in Nova Scotia this week. Words seem inadequate at times like this but suffice to say that we feel heartbroken at the loss of so many people in Nova Scotia in such a violent and horrific way.

We are especially saddened to learn that members of our larger Canadian nursing team have died. We mourn with VON Canada as they face the loss of two of their team members, Heather O'Brien and Kristen Beaton – and with the Nova Scotia Nurses Union where Heather was a member. After retiring recently to Nova Scotia from many years working in food services at Hillsdale Terraces, a long-term care facility in Oshawa Ontario, Dawn Gulenchyn and her husband tragically also were killed.

Coming in the midst of the great uncertainty and anxiety of the COVID-19 pandemic, these deaths seem like a particularly brutal added blow. From across the country, please know that your Canadian Nurses Association colleagues stand with you in collective sadness, and we will hold you up in our hearts during the difficult days ahead.

Sending love, courage, and strength to you all,

Claire Betker, Ph.D., M.N., RN, CCHN(C)
President
president@cna-aiic.ca

Michael Villeneuve, M.Sc. RN FAAN
Chief Executive Officer
mwilleneuve@cna-aiic.ca

