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1 April 2020

Dear Dr Betker,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to express our support for the Canadian Nurses Association during the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

As the number of confirmed cases continues to rise across the world, we are all concerned about the health and safety of nurses, as well as that of the population at large. ICN has been working closely with the World Health Organization to support the global effort to defeat this virus. You may have seen our recently released [statement](#) on the grave situation in Italy where nurses and other healthcare workers lack the sufficient protective equipment to keep them safe. This is a stark warning to other countries around the world to ensure their health workforce is protected – both physically and psychologically. ICN's CEO, Howard Catton, has been very active in the media promoting this message that countries must prioritise and protect nurses and health workers right now. We know you have been doing similar work to ensure that nurses receive the protection they require to continue their work safely.

We understand that cases are continuing to increase in Canada as in many countries across the world. We applaud your work to keep nurses and patients informed via your website. Ensuring that people have access to accurate and timely information is essential in the battle against this virus. We also understand that a large number of retired nurses have stepped up to help in these unprecedented circumstances. We salute their dedication and service.

Our aim is to share lessons learned by national nursing associations across the world as this is a global crisis which requires a global response. We held a webinar on 27 March which brought together representatives from ICN, WHO and leaders of NNAs in the hardest hit countries. ICN, in our role as the global leader of nursing, aims to continue to enable this sharing of information and experience so we may all learn from them. We are also issuing [weekly updates](#) on the situation with links to the latest guidance and information which you may find useful to share with your members.

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Please pass on our expressions of solidarity and gratitude to all the nurses in your country who are working long hours and making personal sacrifices to deliver essential care to patients in very difficult conditions. It is our aim to ensure that the care that nurses provide continues without risk to their own health and those of their families. To do this we must ensure that all nurses are aware of the [guidelines issued by WHO](#) on how to protect themselves, as well as the rights and responsibilities of nurses during this difficult time.

Howard has filmed a message of support for you to share with the nurses of the Canada. Please click [here](#) to access the video.

CNA is a highly respected member of ICN and we acknowledge and congratulate you on the incredible work you are doing. We pray for a speedy resolution and containment of the outbreak across the world.

Yours sincerely,

Annette Kennedy  
President  
International Council of Nurses