



Yukon Registered Nurses Association

204 – 4133 – 4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H8

Phone: 867- 667-4062 Fax: 867- 668-5123 E-mail: yrna@yknet.ca Web: www.yrna.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

10 February 2005

YUKON REGISTERED NURSES NAMED TO NATIONAL WORKING GROUP

WHITEHORSE – The Federal Government, in recognition of the positive impact nurse practitioners are having on the health of Canadians, has provided a considerable amount of funding to the Canadian Nurses Association for the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative.

The Yukon Registered Nurses Association (YRNA) will be actively involved in the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative with a number of Yukon nurses participating on various committees. **Rosemary Graham**, a long time nurse practitioner in Dawson City who is now living in B.C., is a member of the Advisory Committee for the initiative. **Lee Holliday** has been appointed to the Legislation and Regulatory Task Force and **Gaye Hanson** has been appointed to the Communications Task Force as a representative of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada. **Lee Holliday, Dianne Binns and Hazel Booth** have also participated on committees which are developing a national exam for nurse practitioners.

“The goal of this new Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative is to facilitate sustained integration of the nurse practitioner role in the health system across Canada and provide a framework for a consistent approach to the role,” said Patricia McGarr, YRNA Executive Director.

Lee Ash, President of YRNA believes, “It is extremely important that Yukon nurses are involved in this project so that the unique nature of nursing and health care in the north is recognized and reflected in the outcomes.” Ash added, “We are very appreciative that the participation by Yukon nurse practitioners has been supported by the Community Nursing Program and the Department of Health and Social Services.”

“If the nurse practitioner role is to be developed and formalized in the Yukon, it will need to be done within a suitable regulatory framework in the interest of public safety and so that the public has a good understanding of what to expect from a nurse practitioner. This national initiative could provide the Yukon with some important foundational advice on developing the role here,” added McGarr.

Contact:

Yukon Registered Nurses Association

867-667-4062

yrna@yknet.ca