



## **ABSTRACT:**

**STREAM:**                **PREPARING NURSES ACROSS THE CONTINUUM**

**SPEAKERS:**        Heidi Carr, RN, BScN  
                         Sharon Goodwin RN(EC) MN  
                         VON Canada

### **Leveraging technology and building a national learning centre to reach mobile home care nurses - Can it be done?**

VON Canada employs over 2000 home care nurses across Canada's 10 provinces from 56 office sites; providing care to clients in urban centres, rural municipalities and clinics. As a national home care organization VON has unique challenges related to dissemination of education to a geographically dispersed workforce of nurses.

VON is responsible to provide clinical education to nurses to support their professional development, including meeting standards of care, responding to changes in practice and ensuring evidenced-based practice. Technology and informatics plays a large role in meeting these responsibilities at VON.

The presentation described how VON is utilizing an Intranet-based National Learning Centre and web conferencing to meet education dissemination challenges. VON developed a password protected Intranet-based National Learning centre which allows nurses access to courses offered in the organization, online discussion forums and education available in a variety of modalities to meet varied learners preferred format. Weblinks to education and information provided by nursing organizations such as the Canadian Nurses Association and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario are also provided. The Learning Centre allows nurses to access education from their VON site or from home, at any time of day or night.

VON has also acquired web conferencing technology to facilitate education sessions and to assist in introducing the Learning Centre to nurses. Web conferencing allows managers and educators to introduce technology to nurses and provide informatics skills and knowledge in a learner centred approach.

## BIO:

### **Heidi Carr, RN, BScN**

Heidi Carr is a Registered Nurse with over 23 years of diverse experience in medical and surgical acute care settings with over eight years in educator positions. Heidi is currently working toward a Masters in Adult Education and has been with VON Canada as their National Director of Practice Education for two years.

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### **Sharon Goodwin RN(EC) MN**

Sharon Goodwin is a senior health care (nurse) executive with broad -based health experience in the hospital, community, and primary health care, in both the private and public sectors. Sharon is currently the Vice President of Quality & Risk and Chief Practice Executive at VON Canada. As a member of the senior management team at VON she is responsible for the quality, risk and professional practice. Until recently she also held the Chief Information Officer role at VON. Sharon has a broad background in health care, nursing and health informatics. Prior to her current position she was the Ontario Director of Operations for Clinidata Corporation where she pioneered a new telephone nurse advice service for Ontario (Telehealth Ontario).

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