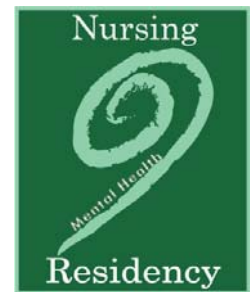


# A Life Changing Specialty...*be a Mental Health Nurse*



## Chief Nursing Officer Congratulates post graduate residents in first provincial Mental Health Nursing Residency Program

**(December 11, 2008)** -- Ontario's Chief Nursing Officer Vanessa Burkoski has presented the first group of post graduate mental health nursing residents with their certificates of completion.

Twenty nursing students have graduated from this inaugural residency program, including four students who completed their residency at Providence Care's Mental Health Services site.

"This first cohort of nurses with specialized education in mental health and addictions will serve as an inspiration to other nurses desiring to practice in this important field of nursing," Burkoski said.

The Mental Health Nursing Residency program is a collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, three academic partners, and five mental health sites - Providence Care's Mental Health Services, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and Whitby Mental Health Clinic. The academic partners are Algonquin College, University of Ontario Institute of Technology and the University of Ottawa.

"I want to congratulate the nursing students who have committed to helping improve the care of people living with mental health issues and addictions," said David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "This unique, innovative program will also help to recruit and retain nurses while helping to increase access to mental health services."

This specialized three month post graduate residency program, developed by Providence Care and an expert team of mental health nursing professionals, has enabled these nurses to build on their knowledge and understanding of mental health. The residency program has provided the foundation for a network of nurses dedicated to excellence in mental health care.

"Working together with our mental health partners and the Ministry to create this program will attract new mental health nurses to this rewarding and challenging field," said Allen Prowse, Providence Care's Vice President of Mental Health and Site Administrator at Mental Health Services. "The success of the program and the enthusiasm from our first group of nursing residents certainly bodes well for the mental health sector."

The graduating class were recognized at a special ceremony on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Whitby Mental Health Centre.

Nurses interested in participating in the next residency program can visit [www.providencecare.ca](http://www.providencecare.ca) or visit the program's website at [www.beamentalhealthnurse.ca](http://www.beamentalhealthnurse.ca) for further information.

*Providence Care is southeastern Ontario's leading provider of rehabilitation, specialized geriatric care, complex continuing care, specialized mental health care, palliative care and long-term care. One of Kingston's university hospitals, Providence Care has three main sites in Kingston: Mental Health Services, St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital and Providence Manor, as well as 18 community locations. Affiliated with Queen's University, Providence Care is a major centre for teaching and research.*

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