



National Nursing Week

May 9 - 15, 2005

Special Advertising Feature of The Windsor Star • Monday, May 9, 2005 C1



Many Roles One Profession



Registered Nurse, Dale Bernandes takes a temperature reading of patient Breena Menard, 2, sitting on mother Tracey's lap.

The Most Trusted Profession

Of all the professions, who would you trust the most? According to a December 2003 Gallup survey of public perceptions of honesty and ethics, nurses topped that list, being ranked first by 79 per cent of the respondents.

Nurses have taken top honours nearly every year since 1999, when Gallup added that profession to the ethics survey. The one exception was the 2001 survey in which firefighters took top spot in the wake of September 11.

Why do nurses rank so high? According to individuals interviewed by various newspapers in the wake of the ranking, it is suggested that the nurse-patient relationship is the basis. Close care and empathy strengthens the rapport between patient and practitioner.

The Gallup results were based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,017 adults. The survey asked which category of professional "lied less".

The top 10 professionals identified in the survey were:

1. Nurses
2. Military officers
3. High school teachers
4. Clergy
5. Police officers
6. Druggists, pharmacists
7. Physicians
8. Funeral directors
9. Accountants
10. Journalists

National Nursing Week

What is the objective of National Nursing Week?

ALL STORIES
BY SUSAN LEWIS
Special to The Star

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National Nursing Week provides Canadians with the opportunity to learn why nurses are at the heart of health care.

As health care providers, the safety and well-being of patients is a nurse's foremost priority. As knowledge workers, the evidence-based decisions a nurse makes daily are key to providing this quality care.

This year's National Nursing Week theme addresses both facets of a nurse's work and calls attention to nursing as a profession committed to the delivery of safe, competent and ethical care in the public interest.

The origin of National Nursing Week can be found in the 1971 decision by the International Council of Nurses to designate May 12 as International Nurses Day, in honour of Florence Nightingale.

In 1985, CNA passed a resolution to begin negotiations with the federal government to explore having the week including May 12 proclaimed as National Nurses Week (NNW). A few months later, in recognition of the dedication and achievements of the nursing



Registered Nurse, Charlene Nosella works in the Critical Care unit at Windsor Regional Hospital.

All Photos: Ed Goodfellow - Special to The Star

ing profession, the minister of health at the time proclaimed the second week of May as NNW. In 1993, the name was changed to National Nursing Week to emphasize the profession's accomplishments as a discipline.

The purpose of NNW is to increase awareness among the public, policy-makers and governments of the many contributions of nursing to the well-being of

Canadians. It is also an opportunity to educate Canadians about health issues, by providing information they need to make decisions about their health, and to promote the role of the nurse.

Each year a theme is selected. Past themes have focused on nurses caring for families, caring for the environment, Canadians getting in shape and caring for seniors.

