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## **Sault College News Release**

For immediate release

### **Sault College Nursing Students to Host the 2016 CNSA National Conference in Sault Ste. Marie**

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON March 25, 2015) Over 500 nursing students from across the country will gather in Sault Ste. Marie as Sault College hosts the Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) 2016 National Conference. From January 27-30, 2016, Sault Ste. Marie will welcome the National Conference that is expected to inject nearly \$500,000 of direct visitor spending into the local economy.

"I am thrilled to hear that our city will be hosting the 2016 CNSA National Conference," said Mayor Christian Provenzano of the event. "In addition to the economic benefits, this conference will also provide great networking and learning opportunities for our local nursing students. I'd like to offer my thanks to everyone who worked on the bid."

Earlier this year, Sault College nursing students Joan Denley, Lyndsey Oesch, Caitlyn Patrick and Jeffery Doan travelled to the 2015 CNSA National Conference in Regina to present their ideas about bringing the event to Sault Ste. Marie in 2016. Their bid, which was developed in cooperation with Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, included a bilingual presentation complete with supporting documents and an innovative promotional video created by a group of Sault College nursing students with the support of Sault College Digital Film Production program.

"I am incredibly honoured and excited to be taking on the role of National Conference Director and to represent Sault College in this way," says Patrick. "We have an amazing team of students

and faculty that will help make this conference an experience that everyone will remember for years to come.” “I am so proud of all of the work we have put into this already,” added Shana Tozer, Deputy Conference Coordinator. “It is going to be a fantastic event!”

“We know that we have something unique and special happening at Sault College, and we wanted the chance to showcase it to the rest of Canada,” states Lori Matthews, Professor and Coordinator of the BScN program and CNSA Faculty Advisor for Sault College. “The competition to secure the 2016 CNSA National Conference was fierce, and we’re only too pleased to be hosting this prestigious event.”

Sault College hosted CNSA Ontario Regional Conference in 2008 and 2013, both of which were well received. The 2016 conference will focus on transformation and the changing landscape of the nursing profession. Highlighted in the bid were also the many seasonal recreational opportunities available in Sault Ste. Marie, which helped support Sault Ste. Marie’s bid to host the National Conference. Given the economic impact the conference will have on the local economy, Tourism Sault Ste. Marie assisted Sault College in the bid process.

“Attracting these types of events is one of our main priorities,” said Ian McMillan, Executive Director of Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, a division of the Economic Development Corporation. “Any time you can get several hundred visitors here for multiple days, it’s going to have a significant positive impact on our economy. We look forward to working with Sault College and other community groups on securing more of these types of events in the years to come.”

There will be a variety of exciting keynote presentations for conference attendees including Tilda Shalof, bestselling author and experienced intensive care unit (ICU) nurse. In addition, Marie Gold, a recent Sault College BScN graduate will share her post-grad experiences working at St. Joseph’s Hospital Psychiatric facility and in McMaster University Hospital’s child and adolescent psychiatry unit. She is conducting research in the field of forensic psychiatry, and

will be presenting her findings at an international conference held in Vienna Austria in July, 2015.

“This is an amazing time for CNSA. There are many issues that affect us as nursing students as we continue to develop and adapt to the profession,” said Rajet Anand, CNSA Past President. “CNSA is conscientious during this time, that the world of nursing is an ever-evolving and exciting area in which we can advocate and show our involvement as nursing students. CNSA’s strength lies in its membership and we are proud to represent almost 30,000 nursing students across the country.”

The planning committee for the 2016 CNSA National Conference would like to thank the many community stakeholders that helped make the bid a success, including the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Tourism Sault Ste. Marie and the Economic Development Corporation, local MP Bryan Hayes, local MPP and Minister of Government and Consumer Services David Oraziatti, and the staff and faculty at Sault College, especially Marilyn King and Lori Matthews.

For more information about the 2016 CNSA National Conference, or if you would like to sponsor or volunteer for the event, please contact National Conference Director, Caitlyn Patrick, at [conference@cnsa.ca](mailto:conference@cnsa.ca).

### **About Sault College**

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Ranked #1 in the province with a score of 85% in overall student satisfaction by students themselves, Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) to learn more.

**About Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA)**

For more than 40 years, CNSA has represented the interests of nursing students to federal, provincial, and international governments and to other nursing and health care organizations. The CNSA, with nearly 30,000 members, is an affiliate member of the Canadian Nurses Association, as well as an associate member of Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, and has a reciprocal relationship with the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.

Please contact:

Tessa Vecchio, Communications Officer

Sault College

705.759.2554 ext. 2830

[www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca)

Ian McMillan

Executive Director

Tourism Sault Ste. Marie

705-759-5442

[i.mcmillan@ssmedc.ca](mailto:i.mcmillan@ssmedc.ca)