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NEWS RELEASE

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Sister Kateri Ghesquiere, CSJ Receives Canada's Highest Distinction in Catholic Health Care

Victoria - The 2000 Performance Citation Award - Canada's highest distinction in Catholic health care - has been awarded to Sister Kateri Ghesquiere, CSJ. The presentation of the award took place on Monday April 10 during the annual convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC), in Victoria, British Columbia.

"We honour Sister Kateri's 23 years of service to the ministry of Catholic health care in Ontario, Alberta, and at the national level. Throughout these years Sister has been a champion of the Jubilee themes that the CHAC has highlighted during this year's convention - justice, poverty, reconciliation and hope," said Mrs. Mary Pat Skene, CHAC Chairperson.

The *Performance Citation Award* is presented each year by the CHAC to individuals or groups who exemplify leadership in an activity, program or project judged worthy of national recognition for its strengthening of the Christian community in an extraordinary way.

Sister Kateri began her ministry in health care at the grass roots level as a member of the boards of Killam General Hospital in Killam, Alberta, and St. Joseph's Health Centre in London, Ontario. She went on to serve on the board of the Catholic Health Association of Ontario from 1989 to 1996 where she also served a term as chair. Nationally, Sister Kateri served as a member of the CHAC Board of Directors from 1994 to 1999 where she also served as board chair.

For the past four years Sister Kateri has chaired the committee for the revision of the Health Care Ethics Guide, an important and pivotal project for the CHAC. Sister researched, wrote and implemented a process for Values Integration Assessment currently being used by member facilities throughout the country. She has also recently taught as a professor for the CHAC Health Care Leadership Program.

Sister Kateri has demonstrated outstanding leadership in assisting health care institutions owned by religious congregations move toward lay sponsorship in order to preserve the Catholic health care mission for future generations. In nominating her for the Performance Citation Award one member wrote: "She has set a precedent which will one day be recognized as a cornerstone for the maintenance of Catholic health care in Canada."