



For Immediate Release
November 13, 2006

**Catholic
Health
Association
of Canada**

CHAC Celebrates National Medicare Week

(Ottawa) – The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) joins key health associations and Canadian citizens throughout the nation in celebrating National Medicare Week – November 13 to 18, 2006.

This event provides an opportunity to showcase the strengths of Canada's health care system. The members of the CHAC are proud to be part of that system and are committed to partnering with others to build on this achievement, transforming Medicare into a comprehensive health system that will provide compassionate, quality care in the years ahead.

On November 16, during National Medicare Week, the CHAC is co-sponsoring a public lecture by Sr. Carol Keehan, President and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA). Sr. Carol will address the state of health care in the U.S. and describe CHA's efforts to make health coverage for all Americans a top priority.

Currently, more than 46 million Americans have no medical coverage. "This fact highlights the great achievement that Medicare represents in Canada," said Gerard Lewis, CHAC President and CEO. "Medicare is a reflection of Canadians' desire to build a caring and compassionate society in which all citizens have access to health services when and where they are needed, regardless of ability to pay."

— 30 —

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The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) is a national Christian association supportive of health care in the tradition of the Catholic Church. As the national voice for Catholic health care, the CHAC's mission is to strengthen and support the ministry of Catholic health care organizations and providers. Its membership includes seven provincial associations; 23 sponsors/owners of health care organizations; 90 hospitals and long-term care organizations; health care professionals; and affiliate organizations and individuals.