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Hello. I am Dr. Solina Richter, Dean at the University of Saskatchewan College of Nursing. May 8<sup>th</sup> till 14<sup>th</sup> we celebrate National Nursing Week in Canada.

This week we recognize the largest healthcare profession in the world and all the great nurses who make a difference each and every day.

Nurses are important, valued members of the healthcare team. They are courageous, dedicated, and persevere in the most difficult of situations. Whether it's working directly with patients on the front lines, educating the nurses of tomorrow, or conducting research, nursing plays a valuable role.

For 2023, the Canadian Nurses Association selected *Our Nurses. Our Future*. as the theme. This theme really resonates with me, as here at USask Nursing, we are educating the nurses of the future. We are walking alongside our students on their journey to becoming the nurses of tomorrow. The nurses that will be....what the world needs.

Today, I thank all the incredible nurses in Saskatchewan, in Canada, and around the world. As a proud Registered Nurse, I celebrate alongside our alumni, our faculty, our staff, and our current students...the future nurses.

I encourage you to celebrate this week with your head held high. Be proud of the nursing profession and the many important roles nurses play. Never forget why you became a nurse. Be proud of what you do each day.

And above all, thank you. Thank you nurses and nursing students for being the nurses and future nurses the world needs.