



## Nurses ask PM & Premiers to make “critically ill-prepared” health care system “Crisis Ready”

OTTAWA — In letters issued in provincial capitals and in Ottawa as well, the leaders of the largest nurses’ organization in Canada asked their respective political leaders to make the “unprepared” system “Crisis ready for the sake of our patients and the public health.”

The new president of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, Linda Silas, and her counterparts across Canada expressed fears that lessons from the SARS crisis will take too long to learn and implement without the leadership of Canada’s First Ministers.

“Our health care system in Toronto was severely tested last month, and many of the system’s weaknesses were revealed. Now, we fear that, as a nation, we will move too slowly to learn the lessons and incorporate the required changes from this crisis. If this turns out to be true, the consequence for our future patients could be dire,” wrote Silas.

“The next infectious disease to reach our shores should be a challenge to our system and its professionals – not a crisis. Prime Minister Chrétien, your leadership is required to ensure that Canadians are well protected and cared for,” she said.

The nurses requested meetings with their provincial leaders and the Prime Minister to quickly identify solutions.

“As nurses we have plenty of experience with infectious diseases, and are not prone to overreaction,” but “we need solutions now,” Silas said.

The full text of the letter in on the CFNU website: [www.cfnu.ca](http://www.cfnu.ca)

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