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PREVNet Supports Health Minister Rona Ambrose's leadership on Family Violence as a Public Health Issue

PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network) is pleased that the new Federal Health Minister has underscored family violence as a public health issue. Speaking to the Canadian Medical Association General Council Meeting in Calgary, Rona Ambrose committed to addressing the issue of family violence through a holistic approach as Minister of Health.

"I am encouraged that Minister Ambrose shares the same view as PREVNet on family violence," says PREVNet Scientific Co-Director, Dr. Debra Pepler. "It is a view we have consistently promoted to the Public Health Agency of Canada."

Minister Ambrose also recognized that aboriginal women have experienced violence more often than any other group in Canada. PREVNet works with the Canadian Red Cross on its Walking the Prevention Circle program, aimed at preventing violence in aboriginal communities.

The Health Minister has also asked the Public Health Agency of Canada to identify partnerships within the health portfolio that will help end family violence.

"PREVNet welcomes the opportunity to continue our partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada," says Dr. Pepler. "The promotion of healthy relationships and the prevention of family violence and child abuse are important public health issues."