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OTTAWA -- Health-care executive Elizabeth Woodbury has been named Executive Director of the Canadian Stroke Strategy, a joint initiative of the Canadian Stroke Network and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. The goal of the Canadian Stroke Strategy is to help support an integrated approach to stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in every province and territory by 2010.

Ms. Woodbury, who has been CEO of two community hospitals and vice-president of Women's College Hospital in Toronto, most recently worked in management with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. She will assume her new role as of January 7.

"Elizabeth's skill as a health-care executive working on systems change and managing relationships with governments and hospitals will prove invaluable," says Dr. Antoine Hakim, CEO and Scientific Director of the Canadian Stroke Network. "Most regions, provinces and territories are moving past the development stage of their stroke strategies and Elizabeth has the perfect hands-on experience to be able to help with implementation."

"Elizabeth's knowledge of the stroke strategy implementation in Ontario and her engaging communications style will be tremendous assets at a critical juncture in the development of this key national health strategy," says Sally Brown, CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. "We are delighted to have her come on board to lead the CSS team."

"I am very excited about joining the dedicated team driving this critically important strategy and working with partners across Canada to optimize stroke care and improve lives," Ms. Woodbury says.

The Canadian Stroke Strategy provides the resources for regions, provinces and territories to put in place their own unique plans to deal with stroke and to reform the health-care system. Resources include the latest research evidence about what works in stroke care; training and education programs for health professionals; tools to evaluate and monitor how well hospitals are delivering care; and public education and awareness.

Ms. Woodbury replaces Debra Lynkowski, who left the position in September to become CEO of the Canadian Public Health Association.

About 50,000 Canadians have a stroke every year – one person every 10 minutes – and 300,000 people are living with the after-effects of stroke.

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**The Canadian Stroke Strategy (CSS)** is a joint initiative of the Canadian Stroke Network and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. The goal of the Canadian Stroke Strategy is to help support an integrated approach to stroke prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration in every province and territory by 2010. Learn more at [www.canadianstrokestrategy.ca](http://www.canadianstrokestrategy.ca)

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