

Past Resolutions and Position Statements

1984

CANADA HEALTH ACT

- Be it resolved that CUNSA support the new Canada Health Act and be it further
- Resolved that CUNSA support the CNA'S recommendations to the new Canada Health Act and the CNA's efforts to incorporate the said recommendations into active legislation.
- **Action:** the National Chairperson, on behalf of CUNSA, submit a letter of support to the new CHA and the CNA's recommendations to the new CHA to the following persons:
 - o Monique Begin
 - o Provincial Ministers of Health
 - o MP's - Helen Glass (CNA Pres)
 - o Dr. Josephine Flaherty.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Be it resolved that CUNSA take a stand to oppose both the production and testing of any or all nuclear weapons in the province of Alberta or in the country of Canada and other nations of the world.
 - And that the National Chairperson will send telegrams to Mr. Lougheed, the Premier of Alberta and Mr. P.E. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, presidents of ICN, CNA and the embassies of USSR, USA, China, France, UK, and India opposing the production, testing and development of nuclear weapons.
 - **Action:** Letters - uncertain whether sent attempt by R. Stollery (UBC) to sue CUNSA over inactivity.
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1985

INCORPORATION

- Be it resolved that: CUNSA incorporate under part II of the Canada Corporations Act, June 7, 1979.
- **Action:** Board of Directors formed
- Corporate seal received
- CUNSA inc. initiated by M.L. Hesson.

CHARITY STATUS

- Be it resolved that: CUNSA seek registered charity status and tax exempt number from Revenue Canada.
- **Action:** annual endeavor
 - o Attempts in 1988-89 by S. Ross, Fundraising Director, to create foundation
 - o Attempts in 1989-90 by S. Lappan, Fundraising Director, and A. Lesperance, Communications Director, have yielded documents for application for charitable status.

FISCAL YEAR

- Be it resolved that: the fiscal year of CUNSA coincide with the dates of the terms of office of the national executive.
- **Action:** Carried out.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Be it resolved that CUNSA's Board of Directors consist of the following members: President, Secretary/Treasurer, Conference Director, Communications Director, Education/Research Director, Fundraising Director, Atlantic Regional Director, Quebec Regional Director, Ontario Regional Director and Western Regional Director.
 - **Action:** Carried out.
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1986

CPR

- Be it resolved that CUNSA support the inclusion of CPR instruction certification and recertification into the first and subsequent years of curricula of baccalaureate program across Canada, i.e., included in tuition fees.
- **Action:** uncertain if letters were written to Deans and Directors.

SMOKING

- Be it resolved that CUNSA urge individuals to take responsibility for their health care by encouraging them to refrain from smoking.
- **Action:** Individual responsibility.

PROFESSIONAL IMAGE

- Be it resolved that CUNSA urge each member to promote a professional image by refraining from purchasing, wearing or displaying articles of slogans demeaning to professional nursing and nursing students.
 - **Action:** motion tabled, individual responsibility.
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1987

NATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION SERVICE

- Be it resolved that CUNSA establish an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the formation and exaction of a national information/answer service for Canadian university nursing students. The service will involve the participation of each CUNSA university chapter.
- **Action:** Ad Hoc Committee formed at UNB - status unknown.

RESOURCE PERSON

- Be it resolved that the development of a resource person position be evaluated by the Board of Directors in their spring meeting 1987, and further be it
- Resolved that this investigation include review of information obtained in correspondence with CAUSN, CNA and provincial associations currently on file with the ORD.
- **Action:** position ratified at 1988 National Conference
 - o Luc Therrien instated as first Resource Person for 1988-90
 - o Remains very active in the position to date.

MAIL SECRETARIAT POSITION

- Be it resolved that CUNSA Board of Directors approve the appointment of a CUNSA member by the OD of University of Ottawa, to the position of Mail Secretariat for the purpose of redistributing mail to CUNSA members which is received at CAUSN'S head office, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.
- **Action:** Carried out by Ottawa University in past
 - o University of Ottawa has relinquished membership this year (89-90) and has not been fulfilling mail secretariat duties.

FEE CHANGES

- Be it resolved that CUNSA membership fees be as follows:
 - o Full-time/Part-time
 - o 1987-88 \$2.50/ \$1.25
 - o 1988-89 \$3.00 /\$1.50
 - o 1989-90 \$3.50 /\$1.75
- Paid in two equal installments per year with the first due at the fall regional conference and the second due at the national conference.
- **Action:** Being undertaken
 - o To be reassessed at the 1990 Board of Directors meeting prior to National Assembly.

ZUCCHINI PLAN

- Be it resolved that an Ad Hoc Committee from one University be appointed to explore the ramifications of a horizontal organization model and further be it
 - Resolved that the Ad Hoc Committee plan the steps to establish this organizational model and further be it
 - Resolved that the Ad Hoc Committee submit interim reports to the Board of Directors for their Spring and Fall meeting, before the National Conference and a final report to the next National Assembly.
 - **Action:** Final report submitted by Dalhousie University February 1988 (Jeff Baines Chair)
 - Plan being implemented with 4 Ad Hoc Committees active and communication operating effectively (i.e., BOD -> RD's -> OD's-> universities) according to plan.
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1988

BILL OF RIGHTS

- Be it resolved that the Board of Directors appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to formulate a CUNSA bill of rights.
- **Action:** University of Alberta Ad Hoc Committee looking onto several issues re: rights of nursing students
- University of Alberta/University of Lethbridge moved that the students' Bill of Rights of 1988 be rescinded at the 1989 National Assembly. This was based on the University of Alberta Ad Hoc Committee Report on student's rights.

UP-TO DATE "GRADUATE BOOKLET"

- Be it resolved that an appointed university produce an updated Graduate Education Booklet which contains information about certificate program, Master's programs as well as Doctorate programs for nurses, and be it further
- Resolved that this updated bilingual Graduate Education Booklet be ready for sale in the 1988-89 CUNSA term.
- **Action:** McMaster Committee chaired by J. Grogan
 - o Graduate booklet was not available to be sold during the 1988-90 CUNSA term
 - o The 1989-90 Board of Directors was made aware that the company that had been chosen to solicit advertising and print the booklet (MTA Communications) has allegedly misrepresented CUNSA as well as the advertisers that they (MTA) had solicited
 - o CUNSA is currently looking for a new company to perform the duties that MTA was originally contracted to do
 - o S. Lappan, Fundraising Director (1989-90) has been in contact with legal authorities regarding MTA Communications.

CREATION OF COMMITTEES

- Be it resolved that the policy and procedure committee be located at the President's member university, and further be it
- Resolved that committees be created at the universities where the following board members are found: Education/Research Director, Fundraising Director, Conference Director, Communication Director, and that these committees will function as a resource to the Board of Directors member to help the member achieve his/her mandate; and be it further
- Resolved that these committees be designated standing committees under section XXXVI of the bylaws and that they be added to the bylaws as such.
- **Action:** Being done to a varying degree.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SURPLUS

- Be it resolved that the Board of Directors recognize the efforts of the host university by giving that university (?) and further be it
- Resolved that any surplus funds from the National Conference go into national accounts and remain designated for future National Conference deficits.

- **Action:** Unclear what will be given (if anything) to host university
- 1988 surplus from University of Manitoba put into National Account.

LOBBYING ENTRY INTO PRACTICE

- Be it resolved that CUNSA establish written guidelines for local CUNSA chapters to lobby government officials on the Entry to Practice issue with the support of the CUNSA organization nationally.
- **Action:** Committee formed at University of Saskatchewan to establish guidelines
- University of Saskatchewan presented these guidelines at the National Assembly (1989).

EXPENSES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Be it resolved that Directors shall claim expenses only for travel, rooming accommodations and \$10.00 per day for meals at each of the Board of Director's meetings and the National Conference, and further be it
- Resolved that the RD's claim these same expenses for their respective regional conferences.
- **Action:** Being used without difficulty
- Purpose - to eliminate the possibility of submission of receipts for extras and clearly define allowable expenses.

FIRST AID

- Be it resolved that CUNSA support the inclusion of First Aid training and certification in the first and subsequent years of generic nursing programs at no cost to the student, and further be it
- Resolved that the President of CUNSA write letters to the Deans of each member university supporting the inclusion of First Aid training in their curricula, and further be it
- Resolved that each OD present to their respective nursing undergraduate societies this issue for further action at each university and to report back to the RD before the May Board of Director's meeting.
- **Action:** Uncertain as to action undertaken at member universities.

1989

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEDGERS

- Be it resolved that expenses incurred from December 31 until the National Conference be recovered with presentation of receipts to the Secretary/Treasurer at the National Conference.
- **Action:** Implemented by the incoming board of directors.
- National Account Closure
- Be it resolved that any CUNSA/AEIUC cheques not cashed by March 1, be cancelled and reissued by the incoming Secretary/Treasurer so that the National Account can be closed and funds be transferred to the new Secretary/Treasurer by March 31.
- **Action:** Implemented by the 1989-90 BOD.

CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

- Be it resolved that a change in the Bylaws be made such that Section XII, Item A2 should read: "Vice-President, hereby referred to as VP, shall be elected from the BOD, excluding the President, at the first meeting of the BOD".
- **Action:** Implemented by the 1989-90 BOD.

HOST OF THE 1992 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- Be it resolved that Queen's University host the National Conference in 1992 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Queen's University and the 50th anniversary of the Queen's School of Nursing.
- Be it further resolved that the Western Region be designated to host the 1993 National Conference after which time the schedule will return to normal.

CPR

- Be it resolved that where no mechanisms for CPR certification exist within the Faculty, CUNSA/AEIUC recommend that the Official Delegate arrange for a CPR course by a qualified instructor to be given at a time and place convenient for the student body, and communicate these arrangements to the students.

1990 & 1991

- No National Assembly minutes in the Archives Section of the website.

1992

CUNSA/AEIUC ARCHIVES

- Be it resolved that the National Assembly ratify the decision of the Board of Directors to have the CUNSA/AEIUC Archives at the AARN offices in Edmonton.
- **Action:** Archives is now presently located at the AARN office in Edmonton.

DISSOLUTION OF HISTORICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Be it resolved that the Historical Review Committee be deleted from the CUNSA/AEIUC Constitution.
- **Action:** Implemented by the 1992 BOD.

LOCATION OF HEAD OFFICE

- Be it resolved that the head office of the Association shall be in the city of Edmonton, Province of Alberta; further,
- Be it resolved that the permanent address of CUNSA/AEIUC be: 8510, 111th Street, #1411, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 1H7 403 433 1170
- **Action:** 1992 BOD implemented this.

CUNSA/AEIUC LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Be it resolved that 30% of the profits from the Charity Auction at the National Conference be designated for scholarship activities and deposited in to a fund annually.
- Be it further resolved that a plan for a CUNSA/AEICU Leadership Award be revised be the 1992-1993 Board of Directors and presented to the 1993 National Assembly

JOB DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION

- Be it resolved that the Communication Director compile and distribute the National Job Directory before December of each year accordingly to the Job Directory Distribution Plan.
- **Action:** 1992-93 Communication Director was unable to implement this due to late submissions from OD's. It was available for the National Conference.

Job Directory Distribution Plan The "Accordion Plan"

September: Each Official Delegate shall collect and compile job directories from their respective University.

October: Each Official Delegate shall bring their job directory to the Regional Assembly (Regional Business Meeting), Regional Directors shall compile a regional job directory.

November: Regional Directors shall bring their job directory to the November Board of Director's meeting. The Communication Director shall compile a National Job Directory and distribute a copy to each regional directory by the end of the November Board of Director's meeting.

Regional Directors shall distribute copies of the National Job Directory to each University within their region before December. The Communication Director will keep a copy of the National Job Directory for further references.

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

- Be it resolved that the National Assembly support the change of the present role of the translation committee to one of: assessing the resources available for translation and implementing a plan for translation of the documents deemed by the BOD as being most necessary to translate.
- **Action:** There was no translation committee in 1992-93.

DISTANCE STUDENTS

- Be it resolved that CUNSA/AEIUC membership for nursing students in distance programs be on a voluntary and individual basis.
- **Action:** Referred to the 1992-1993 BOD. They were given permission to suspend or modify the provisions of section 6 of the constitution (for one year) at their discretion. A new resolution was presented at the 1993 National Assembly for consideration.

DIPLOMA AND COLLABORATIVE STUDENTS

- Be it resolved that the Canadian University Nursing Students' Association expand membership to include diploma and collaborative nursing students.
- **Action:** Implemented by the 1992-1993 BOD. George Brown College in Toronto was the first diploma school to have membership in CNSA/AEIC. George Brown, Humber and Fanshaw Colleges attended the 1993 National Conference in Edmonton.

PROPOSAL FOR THE NAME: CANADIAN NURSING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1. Name - The name of the corporation is the Canadian Nursing Students Association/ L'Association des etudiant(e)s infirmiers(ieres) du Canada.

4. Purpose - The purpose of the Association shall be to promote professionalism among nursing students.

5. Objectives - The objectives of the Association are:

- A. To provide a communication link among nursing students across Canada.
- B. To act as the official voice of nursing students.
- C. To provide a medium through which members can express their opinions on nursing issues.
- D. To encourage participation in professional and liberal education.
- E. To provide a liaison with other organizations concerned with nursing.
- F. To increase the awareness of and the need for nursing research.

Action: the 1992 BOD implemented these changes.

6. Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the Association, with the exception of special and affiliate members, shall be made up of students:

- A. Who are duly registered in a baccalaureate-nursing program whose Faculty, College, or School of Nursing is eligible to be a member of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (CAUSN);
- B. Who are duly registered in a diploma program leading to eligibility to write the CNATS exam;
- C. Who are registered as full or part time students in nursing programs, and;
- D. Whose fees have been paid on their behalf by their chapter in accordance with Bylaw VII.

- **Action:** the 1992 BOD made these changes.

LOCATION OF THE HEAD OFFICE

- Be it resolved that: Article 3 be amended as follows:
- 3. Head of office
- The head office of the Association shall be in the City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta.
- **Action:** Changes made by the 1992 Constitution Committee.

FEE INCREASE

- Be it resolved that membership fees for CUNSA/AEIUC be increased to \$4.00 per full-time student and \$2.00 per part-time students starting the year 1992-1993.
- **Action:** Referred to the BOD to be implemented in Sept. 1993.

CURRICULUM ON LOBBYING

- Be it resolved that CUNSA/AEIUC support the inclusion of effective lobbying activities and techniques into the mandatory curriculum; and further,
- Be it resolved that all official Delegates and Associate Delegates work with the Dean/Director of their respective nursing Faculty/School to include effective lobbying activities and techniques into the mandatory curriculum; and further,
- Be it resolved that the vice-president write to CAUSN to inform them of the position of CUNSA/AEIUC on lobbying and to offer CAUSN assistance in introducing these changes to the curriculum.
- **Action:** Letter written by vice-president to CAUSN in 1992. CNSA supports inclusion of lobbying into curriculums. Most OD's approached their Deans/Directors with concerns re: lobbying inclusion into curriculums.

ACADEMIC EQUIVALENCE FOR ATTENDING NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- Be it resolved that the official Delegate submit a written proposal to the Dean/Director of their respective Faculty/School of Nursing to obtain academic equivalence for the students who attend the CUNSA/AEIUC National Conference.
- **Action:** Equivalence was reworded to state: Recognition. OD's encouraged by Regional Directors. Uncertain of action taken by OD's.

PROMOTION COMMITTEE

- Be it resolved that CUNSA/AEIUC strike up an ad hoc committee at McMaster University to develop a promotional package for CUNSA/AEIUC.
- **Action:** Ad Hoc Committee formed and headed by Steve Cairns Excellent promotional package produced for CNSA.

PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Be it resolved that the Official Delegate or the Associate Delegates of each University submit to the Promotion Committee by March 9, 1992, strategies for promoting CUNSA/AEIUC that have been successful as well as strategies that have failed and ideas for future and ongoing promotions.

1993

NATIONAL ACCOUNT

- Be it resolved that the CNSA/AEIC National Account remain indefinitely at the CIBC branch located at 112 Street and 82 Avenue in Edmonton, Alberta.

BOD Food Allowance

- Be it resolved that each member of the Board of Directors receive \$15.00 per day for food allowance at each board of directors' meeting and National Conference effective in the 1993-1994 year.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION BOARD (WCB)

- Be it resolved that the official delegates within the CNSA/AEIC determine the status of Worker's Compensation coverage, as it relates to students in Nursing, in their community and report to their respective Regional Director by April 30, 1993.

PERMANENT ADDRESS

- Be it resolved that the head office of the Association shall remain in the City of Edmonton, Alberta;
- Be it further resolved that a permanent post-office box be acquired by the Resource Person by April 1, 1993.

DISTANCE STUDENTS

- Be it resolved that CNSA/AEIC membership for nursing student in a distance program be on a voluntary and individual basis; and
- Be it further resolved that the following amendments be made to Bylaw 6 Section C;
- Be it further resolved that Bylaw 43 Sections A, B, & C be added to the constitution as amended.

NURSING SCIENCE REFERENCE

- Be it resolved that CNSA/AEIC formally refer to R.N. programs as "Nursing Science" programs i.e. Faculty of Nursing Science.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER POSITIONS

- Be it resolved that the number of positions on the board of director be increased to include both a secretary and a treasurer effective in 1994-1995.

1994

INTERNATIONAL NURSING STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

- Be it resolved that the resolution regarding International Nursing Student Support Committee be accepted.
- The resolution stated that the CNSA/AEIC participate on the International Nursing Student Support Committee, to support fellow nursing students in their efforts to organize within their countries.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES MEETING 1997

- Be it resolved that we adopt the resolution regarding the International Council of Nurses Meeting 1997.
- The resolution stated that CNSA/AEIC begin searching for funding sources and budget planning so that a significant number of the board will be able to attend/represent Canada's issues and concerns in 1997.

PD Planning Student Assembly

- Be it resolved that we amend resolution 9.1.2 (b) to read that "CNSA/AEIC promotion director work".

- Be it resolved that CNSA/AEIC PD work with CNA and ICN Secretariat in the planning of student related events for ICN 1997.

CONNECTION FUNDING

- Be it resolved that we adopt resolution 3b as presented re: "Connection Funding".
- It was discussed and approved that the Association allot \$2000.00/annum to finance the publication of the Connection. Barbara Sybol of CNA stated that her services are free and will continue to do so.

GROUP B STREPTOCOCCUS

- Be it resolved that we adopt the resolution of GBS as read.
- **Discussion:** that the CNSA/AEIC nationally support the creation of an Ad Hoc committee which would implement and coordinate the activities to educate fellow nurses and nursing students of the nature of GBS infection in prenatal, intra-natal, and postnatal women.

First Aid Requirement

- Be it resolved that the CNSA/AEIC support the elimination of First Aid Certification as a requirement for nursing students, in nursing programs across Canada.
- Be it resolved that motion No. 20 be amended to include "request that the First Aid information be included in Nursing programs' curriculums".
- Be it resolved that each Official Delegate present this motion to their respective faculties before the end of this academic year (April 1994), request that the First Aid information be included in the curriculum, and report the faculty response and/or action taken, with respect to this matter, to the ad-hoc committee prior to the 1995 National Conference.

1995

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNICATION LINKS

- Be it resolved that an Ad Hoc Committee be created to plan strategic political action for a new communication link; further be it
- Resolved that the committee look at the different types of communication links and report all their findings to the Promotional Director

STRATEGIC PLAN

- Be it resolved that future BOD members work with the Resource Person developing implementation strategies for set goals and objectives; further be it
- Resolved that an evaluation of the strategic plan should be done each year to see what has been accomplished and what needs change; further be it
- Resolved that any member of the CNSA/AEIC is allowed to submit suggestions, proposals, etc. to the BOD in furthering the development of the strategic plan

PROPOSAL FOR MEDIA WATCH

- Be it resolved that the CNSA/AEIC OD's and AD's report negative nursing portrayals in the media to their Regional Director, further be it,
- Resolved that Regional Directors report to all other BOD to alert the membership to action, and further be it,
- Resolved that the Regional Director inform Provincial and National Professional Nursing Associations of the actions being taken by the CNSA/AEIC membership

INFORMATION PACKAGE ON MEDIA WATCH

- Be it resolved that University of Lethbridge compile a media monitoring information package and further be it
- Resolved that this compilation be distributed to Regional Directors by April 30th, 1995, and further be it
- Resolved that his package be included in the OD?AD 1995 CNSA/AEIC information package

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR ICN ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

- Be it resolved that UBC be responsible for the recruitment of one student to sit on the ICN Entertainment Committee; further be it
- Resolved that should UBC be unable to find one student by February 1st, 1995, the Western Regional Director recruit one student to sit on the ICN Entertainment Committee by February 15th, 1995.

ICN STUDENT ASSEMBLY AGENDA

- Be it resolved that an Ad Hoc Committee containing at least one member from each of the four regions be formed to create the agenda for the ICN student assembly in collaboration with the Promotional Director.

AUDIO TAPING

- Be it resolved that all regional, national, and BOD business meetings be recorded audibly; further be it
- Resolved that the cassette tapes be clearly labelled and be placed in the Archives along with the written minutes.

FEE INCLUSION TO SCHOOL'S REGISTRATION

- Be it resolved that each Official Delegate and Associate Delegate lobby their school's administration to include CNSA/AEIC fees into the school's registration costs.

STANDARD PORTFOLIO PROPOSAL

- Be it resolved that the CNSA/AEIC incoming BOD compile a standard portfolio containing information pertinent to BOD member, and further be it
- Resolved that this standard portfolio be kept at CAUSN, under the Administrative Assistant.

- No National Assembly minutes in the Archives Section of the website.
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2000

BOD NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORTS

- Be it resolved that the resolution be adopted with the deletion of the third whereas;
 - **Discussion:** The resolution means that the Board of Directors must submit their reports earlier than when they arrive at the National Conference.
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2001

POSITION STATEMENT ON PRIVATIZATION

- Be it resolved that CNSA accepts the position statement on privatization.

Introduction

The Canadian Nursing Students Association (CNSA) is the National voice for nursing students. One major goal is to allow students to express their opinions on current nursing issues at the National as well as at the provincial level. For the past few years, privatization of our health care system has been a subject of great debate amongst governments, for example with bill 11 in Alberta, and the reaction of many Nursing Association, for example, The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) and many others. Because CNSA has been represented at many important meetings such as the National Nursing Forum and was asked to speak in the name of all Canadian Nursing Students, it is time for us to have an official position on the issue of Privatization.

We have consulted two papers: Towards a Sustainability, Universally Accessible Health-Care System written by Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, Canadian Nurses Association, Ontario Nurses' Association, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and United Nurses Alberta, and Women Privatization and the Health Care Reform: The Ontario Case' paper by Patricia Armstrong.

We know that privatization would compromise access to Health Care for all Canadians. According to Pat Armstrong, health care must be understood as a public good rather than a market commodity. She points out two important differences between health care delivery and goods production. First, care providers assume and demand autonomy in making decision based on their assessment of the individual need, in contrast, strategies in the for-profit sector assume and demand managerial control over processes and decision-making. Secondly, in for-profit sector, selling is critical to maintaining profit growth whereas in our health care reform the stated purpose is to spend and use less.

Position Statement

The Canadian Nursing Students Association supports a totally public health care system in accordance with the Canadian Health Act, including Medicare, Pharmacare and Primary Care.

References

Armstrong, P. (1999) Women, Privatization and Health Care Reform. National Network on Environments and Women's Health. (Dec.)

Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, Canadian Nurses Association, Ontario Nurses' Association, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and United Nurses Alberta (2000). Towards a Sustainable Universally Accessible Health-Care System. (May).

NEW MEMBER SCHOOL FEES

Whereas, CNSA/AEIC is always striving to recruit non-member schools.

Whereas, It is important to make becoming a member school as easy and attractive as possible.

Whereas, Fees/fee collection inhibits interested non-member nursing students from getting their schools involved.

Whereas, It is a complicated and long process to have CNSA/AEIC fees included in the tuition.

Resolved that CNSA/AEIC make the fees for new member schools ½ the normal amount for the first two years of membership.

DISTANT CNSA MEMBERS

Whereas, The CNSA wants to expand their membership to non-member schools

Whereas, distant membership have been applying for membership and paying the same fees as individuals of member schools

Whereas a fee increase for distant members would be an incentive to encourage their entire school to become a member.

Resolved, that CNSA membership fee for distant members of non-member schools pay \$15.

CREATION OF A NEW AWARD

- Be it resolved that CNSA accept the resolution to create an award.

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

- Be it resolved that an amendment be made to the resolution that \$3000 of the CNSA's annual budget be allotted to the translation committee such that \$3000 be allotted in this manner for the upcoming year only and that during this year,
- Funding for the translation of CNSA documentation be lobbied for, and that the original resolution be revisited at the 2002 National Conference.

2002

FRENCH SPEAKING SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF THE QUEBEC REGION

Whereas, An object of CNSA is “To provide a communication link among nursing students across Canada, recognizing the specific language needs of our bilingual country.”

Whereas, most regional conferences and meetings outside of Quebec are conducted in English.

Whereas, the highest concentration of French Schools are in Quebec

Whereas, there are French speaking schools outside of the Quebec region

Whereas, CNSA cannot afford to provide simultaneous translation at regional meetings

Be it resolved that French speaking schools may choose to become part of the Quebec region instead of the region where they are geographically located in order to recognize the language needs of French speaking schools and to promote more effective communication, both regionally and nationally.

Be it further resolved that, Section 4.08 of the by-laws be modified to read:

4.08 Regions of Membership: Membership shall be divided into regions based upon location **and/ or language**; for chapter, individual and distance members the location shall be the location of their school of nursing and for all other members location shall be the location of their principal residence. The Atlantic region shall include all members in the provinces of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The Quebec region shall include all members in the province of Quebec. The Ontario region shall include all members in the Province of Ontario. The Prairie region shall include members in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The Western region shall include all members in the province of British Columbia, Nunavut, the North West Territory, and the Yukon Territory. **Nursing programs may choose to become part of the region where their specific language needs are met” instead of “the region where they are geographically located.**

CNSA FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

Whereas, CNSA must be financially responsible

Whereas, CNSA must be able to be financially flexible throughout the year

Be it resolved that the following section be added to the rules and regulations:

13. Financial:

This section may only be modified by the national assembly.

13.1 Budget

13.1.1 A detailed yearly budget must be planned at the first meeting of the board of directors and reviewed at each subsequent meeting.

13.1.2 The board of directors may not budget yearly expenses in excess of 90% of the prior year's revenue.

13.2 Funds Dispensing

13.2.1 No funds may be dispensed without first obtaining a receipt or invoice of the expense. Distribution of awards funds shall be the sole exception to this rule.

13.2.2 No funds shall be distributed outside of the budgeted amounts without prior authorization of the officers or the board of directors.

REGIONAL COMMUNICATION

Whereas: An object of CNSA is to "To provide a communication link among nursing students across Canada, recognizing the specific language needs of our bilingual country."

Whereas: CNSA is dependant on and relies on the Official and Associate delegates to act as liaisons between the general membership and the board of directors.

Whereas: There have been problems in the past maintaining adequate and effective communication with the Official and Associate Delegates.

Be it resolved, that the following guidelines for regional communication be established and added to the rules and regulations of CNSA:

4.3 Regional Communication:

4.3.1 It is expected that the OD/AD of each member school will:

4.3.1.1 develop and/or maintain an email account for the CNSA/AEIC chapter at their school;

4.3.1.2 inform their Regional Director and the OD/ADs of other schools in their district of this email address, as well as a mailing address and telephone number;

4.3.1.3 check their email on, at a minimum, a weekly basis, preferably more frequently;

4.3.1.4 respond to queries from all sources as soon as possible, preferably the same day;

4.3.1.5 write monthly memos via email to their Regional Director and other OD/ADs in their region. These may be informal in nature, and are meant to be used to keep

others informed of what is happening at your school;
4.3.1.6 both have access to the email account and that they communicate all information or messages from this and all other sources to each other.

4.3.2 A problem or breakdown in communication is defined as:

4.3.2.1 not having an email account set up at the beginning of September of the school year;

4.3.2.2 not passing the email address, mailing address or telephone number on to others;

4.3.2.3 not writing a monthly memo;

4.3.2.4 not responding to direct queries from your Regional Director or other OD/ADs.

4.3.3 The Board of Directors has determined that the following actions may be taken by the Regional Directors if a communication problem exists:

4.3.3.1 if no response from the individual has been received within one week, the Regional Director will send another email;

4.3.3.2 if, following a week after this email, the Regional Director will telephone the individual;

4.3.3.3 if there is still no contact or response after this, the Regional Director will send an official letter to the individual stating that they assume the person wishes to resign from their position. A copy of this letter will also be mailed to the Officers of CNSA. Included in this letter will be contact information of the Officers if the individual wishes to contact them. The individual will have two weeks to respond to this letter. This gives a non-responsive individual a total of 4 weeks of attempted communication from the Regional Director. The Officers will make the final decision on the status of the individual.

4.3.4 Extenuating circumstances which may excuse the individual from the above scenario include:

4.3.4.1 illness or death of the individual or their family member

4.3.4.2 periods during which the individual is absent or busy and will not be able to access email. For the above two scenarios, it is mandatory for the individual to notify their Regional Director and others in their region of this situation;

4.3.4.3 during times of academic recess when students are not in school, it is assumed that email will not be accessed as frequently. However, it must be checked at least every two weeks.

4.3.5 In the absence of an established process for filling the OD position at a school, it is assumed that the AD will take on the role of the OD if this position becomes vacant.

PROOF OF ENROLMENT

Whereas, the membership fees for a school are based on the number of students at a member school.

Whereas, there are inconsistencies between member schools in the proof provided of the number of students.

Be it resolved, that the enrollment of a school for purposes of fees collection shall

be determined by a signed letter from the registrar or other appropriate official.

Be it further resolved, that the following statement be included in the 3.1 Membership fees portion of the rules and regulations, and that the section be renumbered appropriately.

The number of students at a school for the purposes of fees collection shall be determined by a signed official letter from the chapter school's registrar or other appropriate official. A chapter member shall not be considered a member in good standing until this letter is received, along with the appropriate fees.

POST-RN MEMBERSHIP IN CNSA

Whereas, membership of post-RN students has been inconsistently applied by member schools for the purpose of determination of fees.

Whereas, it is often difficult to obtain membership fees from post-RN students because they feel they do not have to be members of CNSA/AEIC due to other professional memberships.

Be it resolved, that post-RN students are considered to be CNSA/AEIC members if they are integrated into their educational institutions' undergraduate nursing program.

Be it further resolved, that the following statement be added to the 3.1 Membership Fees section of the rules and regulations: **"In chapter schools where post-RN students are integrated into the regular undergraduate classes, the post-RN students shall be included in the total number of students for the purposes of fee payment;"** and that the section be renumbered appropriately.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE TIME EQUIVALENT TO CLINICAL TIME

Whereas, the CNSA promotes, encourages, and provides opportunities for students to gain experience in professional activities. The CNSA believes these activities are integral to developing as a professional.

Whereas, professionalism is important to nursing, and active participation in the process, at the student level, is crucial to advancing the practice. When looking at the excellence of care "professionalism constituted an all encompassing theme subsuming [holistic care, practice, and humanism] all others" (Coulon, Mok, Krause & Anderson, 1996). Effusing from professionalism's importance to nursing, are the benefits of being involved.

Whereas, numerous studies on the "Socialization into nursing" suggest that being actively involved gives the student a solid self-concept of their roles (William, 1995; Greenawalt 1996) that will consequently help to combat low self-esteem and low self-confidence (Bright 1992). Helping to garner this solid self-concept has a positive impact on recruitment and retention (Cohen, 1992) in that it decreases job dissatisfaction, (Krichbaum, 1997) instills a level of comfort and belonging, (A basic human need Maslow's hierarchy) and fosters a more solid commitment to nursing. (Lu & Chiou, 1998) Furthermore, it simply provides another opportunity of experience that will undoubtedly improve the quality of the nursing graduate.

(Ruetter, Field, Campbell & Day, 1997)

Whereas, correlating with involvement is the ability of new graduates to show a greater capacity to adapt to changing, and extremely demanding, work environments. (Bedard & Dupette, 1998) In addition to adaptation, professionally developed students are better able to see issues affecting their practice (Krichbaum, 1997), enhance collaboration and affect change in the system. (Richardson, Valentine, Wood, & Godkin, 1994) Active participation allows one to learn the process of activism, which will foster and ensure nursing has a strong, articulate voice to enhance the image of nursing. (Cohen, 1992) As students, even without the refined voice, participation will allow for input to be made in nursing education that will change the way we are educated. The student perspective is integral to the education process. (Thornton & Chapman, 2000).

Be it resolved, that the CNSA believes that Professional time should have academic credit.

Be it further resolved, that CNSA actively lobby nursing schools and nursing education organizations promoting this policy.

Be it further resolved, that conference directors will provide a list of attendants to the regional director. The regional directors will be responsible for writing a letter following national and regional conferences to the dean or director of each school with a description of the conference and a list of the students from the school who attended.

Bedard, D. & Dupette, A. (1998) Nurses' professional self-concept. Canadian Nurse, 94, (6) p. 43-45.

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Cohen, L. (1992). Power and change in Health Care: Challenge for nursing. Journal of Nursing Education, (31) 3. Pp. 113-116.

Coulon, L., Mok, M., Krause, K. & Anderson, M. (1996) The pursuit of excellence in nursing care: what does it mean? Journal of Advanced Nursing, 24, (4) p. 817-826.

Greenawalt, W. (1996) Professional socialization of baccalaureate nursing students: a study of the meaning of selected concepts related to professionalism. Doctoral Dissertation: Kent State University. Krichbaum, K. (1997). Focuses on the teaching of leadership to student nurses. Creative Nursing, 3, (2). p. 12-16.

Lu, K. & Chiou, S. (1998) Professional commitment of nursing students. Nursing Research, 6, (2) p. 109-20.

Maslow, A. (1954). Motivation and personality. New York: Harper & Row.

Reutter, L., Field, P., Campbell, I. & Day, R. (1997) Socialization into nursing: Nursing students as learners. Journal of Nursing Education, 36, (4) p. 149-155.

Richardson, S., Valentine, P., Wood, M. & Godkin, D. (1994) Leadership: A nursing perspective. Canadian Journal of Nursing Research, 26, (4) p. 82-95.

Thornton, R. & Chapman, H. (2000) Student voice in curriculum making. Journal of Nursing Education, 39, (3) 124-131.

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN THE ROLE OF PRECEPTOR / MENTOR

Whereas, the CNSA/AEIC is committed to recognizing those nurses who have assumed the role(s) of preceptor and/or mentor and have made outstanding contributions to the overall growth, development, education of nursing students.

Be it resolved that, the CNSA/AEIC will award certificates of excellence for their dedication and commitment in the role of preceptor and/or mentor.

BACCALAUREATE AS ENTRY TO PRACTICE

Whereas, the nursing profession is faced with increasingly complex health care needs of clients.

Whereas, Registered Nurses must possess the educational background to understand and keep abreast of the challenges and changes they will face across a lifetime of practice.

Whereas, Health Care practices are expected to be based on evidence and research requiring Registered Nurses to have the ability to understand, conduct, and utilize these findings.

Whereas, the evolution of the nursing profession is contingent upon an educational system which allows one to learn leadership, teamwork, and communication skills with the time to integrate this learning with the practice.

Be it resolved, that CNSA/AEIC, as the official voice of nursing students, maintains the position that entry level competencies for future nurses are most effectively and economically achieved through baccalaureate nursing education.

Be it further resolved that CNSA/AEIC actively lobby this position where appropriate.

2003

AUTHORITY ON PROJECTS

Whereas, CNSA members or individuals wish to seek business services outside the CNSA.

Whereas, one individual alone cannot solely act on the behalf of the CNSA with regard to business interactions.

Whereas, only the CNSA Board of Directors has control over financial and contractual obligations.

Be it resolved that: No individual shall be given sole authority over any project that affects the CNSA as a whole.

Be it further resolved that: Any non-CNSA member responsible for a project for the CNSA valuing over \$100.00 must enter into a contractual relationship with the CNSA.

Be it further resolved that: Particular chapters, regions, regional conferences, and national conferences, when undertaking any project or event clearly represent themselves as a particular member chapter, region, regional conference, or national conference as appropriate

MEN IN NURSING

Whereas: Men were not allowed into all nursing schools in Canada until 1969.

Whereas: The shortage that the nursing profession is facing will eventually drain the present pool of applicants.

Whereas: The CNSA has a long history of men holding positions in the organization.

Whereas: Men holding leadership positions in nursing organizations provide positive role models to encourage the recruitment of men into nursing.

Be it resolved that: The Canadian Nursing Students' Association create a position statement that demonstrates the intentions and actions we are willing to take to endorse the active recruitment and retention of men into nursing.

Be it further resolved, that: The Canadian Nursing Students' Association maintain the gender-neutral promotions material (e.g. video project, Posters, etc.), and the availability of all positions within the organizations regardless of gender.

The Men in Nursing Position Statement reads:

During the 1960's, nursing schools across Canada opened their doors to men. Although this was a huge step for the nursing community the number of male applicants and graduates has risen at a painfully slow pace. With the most devastating nursing shortage on the horizon the need to recruit potential nurses

is greater than ever. The Canadian Nursing Students' Association fully supports the active recruitment and retention of men into the nursing profession. As with our actions in the past the Canadian Nursing Students' Association will continue to create gender -neutral publications and promotions material. More importantly the Canadian Nursing Students' Association will continue to set the standards for a non-bias availability of all positions within the organization.

NURSING SCHOOLS WITH MORE THAN ONE PHYSICAL CAMPUS

- Be it resolved that, the following be added to the Rules and Regulations, Part III: membership stating that "Schools of Nursing with more than one physical site or campus, in which students attend only one physical site or campus at one time, should apply to the Board of Directors as separate chapters. Schools of Nursing with more than one physical site or campus in which students attend more than one physical site or campus concurrently should apply to the Board of Directors as one chapter".

2004

CHAIR OF TRANSLATION AND BILINGUALISM

- Be it resolved that the title of chair of translation and bilingualism be added to the Board of Directors.

CHANGE THE MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Whereas, the 2003/2004 September Package official membership form states "In order to assist new chapters, if your school is a new member (has not been a member for greater than four years) or is in the second year of membership, you are responsible for only remitting 50% of the fees."

Whereas, the description as stated can lead to confusion.

Be it resolved that the September package official membership form states, "a new member school in its first and second year of membership will receive a 50% discount for the membership fees.

Be it resolved that a new member school be defined as follows:

- 1) A school that has not previously been a member of the CNSA
- 2) A school that previously was a member but has not been a member for four or more consecutive years.

ONTARIO NURSING BOOK

Whereas, the Ontario Nursing book organized by Peter Carle is advertised to hospitals and associations that every nursing student in Ontario will receive a copy.

Whereas, at CNSA - McMaster chapter, there are approximately 700 students and 100 Ontario Nursing books.

Whereas, it is very expensive to place an ad in the Ontario Nursing book. Hospitals and Associations would rather place an ad in the Ontario Nursing book than in chatbooks, conference books, etc. organized by nursing students in the region.

Whereas, we feel the advertising of the books deters fundraising by individual chapters.

Whereas, the CNSA, more specifically the Ontario Region has concerns about the potential fundraising money lost because of the Ontario Nursing books and the advertising they promote.

Whereas, it would be of increased benefit for hospitals, students and CNSA if information was disseminated and resources not only promoted by nursing students but also distributed by nursing students. By advertising in nursing students organized publications not only are hospitals and associations directly funding nursing students but guaranteeing the information is properly distributed within the nursing student sector.

Be it resolved that, the CNSA will no longer financially support &/or promote the Ontario Nursing book within the regions of the CNSA.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEPTEMBER PACKAGE

Whereas, the September package was not distributed in due time to OD's and AD's of the Ontario Region.

Whereas, the concern was brought forth by the Ontario Regional Director to the Board of Directors after the Regional Conference as the packages were still not received.

Whereas, it is now online and schools are expected to print a copy off the webpage at their own cost.

Whereas, the September package was previously provided free for all changes.

Be it resolved that the Regional Directors distribute the September Package to their delegates.

Be it further resolved that the September Package be distributed by a specific date across each region.

Be it further resolved that the Chapters are not responsible for the cost of the initial September Package.

2005

**PERMANENT ADDITION OF A TRANSLATION AND BILINGUALISM
DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Whereas, it is stated on CNSA website:

“CNSA/AEIC is committed to bilingualism and makes every effort to ensure documents and the proceedings are available in both English and French.

Currently there is a national standing Translation Committee that works with the BOD to develop a strategic plan to make CNSA/AEIC more bilingual in a way that is economically feasible. If you would like to participate in this committee or would like to volunteer your time and expertise translating documents please contact us.”

Whereas, the following are CNSA objectives:

Provide a communication link among nursing students across Canada, recognizing the specific language needs of our bilingual country.

Act as the official voice of nursing students.

Whereas, Translation has been an ongoing concern within the CNSA for many years.

Whereas, the responsibility of translation has traditionally fallen on any French/bilingual member on the board.

Whereas, the translation budget required an increase from 3500\$ to 6500\$ for the 2004-2005 year.

Whereas, in January 2003 and 2004, the National Assembly approved a temporary, one-year addition of a Translation and Bilingualism chair to the board, to be reviewed at the 2005 National Assembly.

Be it resolved that the position titled “Director of Translation and Bilingualism” be added to the Board of Directors pending approval from the Minister of Industry for a change to the Bylaws to include this new board position.

Be it further resolved that, the following description of the duties of this title be added to the rules and regulations:

The Director of Translation and Bilingualism shall:

- Advise the Board of Directors on matters concerning the translation of documents and the accessibility of French and English translations to the board members and regional executives, when necessary and financially possible;
- Advise the Board on how to uphold the association’s commitment to be a bilingual association;
- Manage the CNSA resources allocated to bilingualism;
- Ensure that all CNSA documents be written and published in both Canadian official languages, when financially possible;
- Research funding opportunities for Bilingualism;
- Be responsible of recruiting a interpretation company for the National Conference, according to resources allocated by the NCD;
- Surrender to the incoming Director of Translation and Bilingualism all

records and files with a oral and written explanation by April 1.

ADDITION OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE BOD MEETING AGENDA TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Whereas, the Rules and Regulations of the CNSA presently outline inclusions of the agenda for the Spring and Fall meetings of the BOD.

Whereas, the BOD meets for a final meeting prior to the National Conference.

Whereas, an agenda must be set for all meetings, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Be it resolved, an addition be made under Part VI (Meetings of the Association) of the Rules and Regulations as follows: National Conference BOD Meeting

- Evaluation of Resource Officer Position;
- National Assembly package;
- Changes to Rules & Regulations/Bylaws to be presented to the National Assembly;
- Resolutions and position statements to be presented to the National Assembly.

ADDITION OF CHANGEOVER MEETING AGENDA TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Whereas, the incoming and outgoing Board of Directors meets prior to the adjournment of the National Conference Board Meeting.

Whereas, the Rules and Regulations of the CNSA presently outline inclusions of the agenda for the Spring and Fall meetings of the BOD.

Whereas, an agenda must be set for all meetings, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Be it resolved, an addition be made under Part VI (Meetings of the Association) of the Rules and Regulations as follows: BOD Changeover Meeting

- o Oaths of Office
- o National and Regional Conference Directors' contracts
- o Contracts
- o Transfer of Information to incoming BOD.

PROCEDURE TO FILL VACANT BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Whereas, the Rules and Regulations lack a procedure in regards to filling vacant Board of Director positions.

Be it resolved, a new section be added in the Rules and Regulations under Part V: Power and Duties of the Board of Directors. This section will be added after Individual Position Budgets and be titled Vacancies.

Be it further resolved, The Vacancies section will state the following:

"If an Officer of the Board position becomes vacant, a present Board Member must be voted into the position by a 2/3 vote from the Board of Directors. Upon receiving the Officer of the Board position, that individual must immediately verbally resign from his/her previous position.

If a non-Officer of the Board position becomes vacant the present Board of Directors will determine a suitable replacement. The individual must be voted in with a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors. The vote will be overseen by the Resource Officer via telephone and/or email”

TO CHANGE THE DESCRIPTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS POSITION

Whereas, the current job description of the Director of Communications states that “Ensure that the web page is up to date by maintaining regular communication with the appointed manager of the web site.”

Be it Resolved that, the description of the responsibilities of the Director of Communications be extended to include primary communication with the appointed manager of the web site

Be it further resolved that, all members of the BOD and CNSA be responsible for submitting information that they would like placed on the website to the Director of Communications who will then forward it to the appointed manager of the website

BOD COMMUNICATION

Whereas, one of the CNSA’s objectives is to provide a communication link to nursing students across Canada.

Whereas, it is the Board of Directors’ responsibility to communicate with each other.

Be it resolved that defined guidelines for communication among the Board of Directors be created.

Be it further resolved, the addition of a section titled “BOD Communication” be added to the Rules and Regulations under Part V, which will state the following:

“1. By the first week of each month, from April to March, each board member will submit a monthly memo that must:

- Consist of activities undertaken in the previous month
- Be posted on the BOD bulletin board on the CNSA website

2. Fourteen days prior to BOD meetings, each board member will submit, via email to the BOD, a detailed BOD meeting report consisting of:

- a) Personal objectives and duties of the Board position as stated in Part V (Power and Duties of the Board of Directors) in the Rules and Regulations
- b) Activities undertaken over the past months to meet these objectives
- c) Plans for upcoming months.

3. Thirty days prior to the National Assembly, each Board member will submit, via e-mail to the Resource Officer and the President, a detailed National Assembly report consisting of:

- a) Objectives of the CNSA
- b) Activities undertaken to meet each objective throughout their Board term
- c) Recommendations for the incoming Board member

4. The Board communication will be maximized in the following manner: The president and the vice-president will each divide up the contact list of the BOD members and will make telephone calls every three to four weeks in order to enhance information exchange regarding BOD positions and regional issues.

INCLUSION OF BOD COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

Whereas, there is no defined structure regarding the communication and information transfer process among board members.

Whereas, this may lead to incomplete and disorganized information sharing during BOD turnover and throughout the term.

Be it resolved that structured and defined guidelines for communication among BOD be implemented.

Be it further resolved that the guidelines for communication among BOD be stated in the Rules and Regulations as such:

1. By the first week of each month, each board member will submit a monthly memo that must:
 - a) Be sent via email to all board members
 - b) Consist of activities undertaken in the previous month
 - c) Be posted on the national discussion bulletin board on the CNSA website
 - d) Be done from and including April to and including March of the subsequent year.
2. Fourteen days (two weeks) prior to BOD meetings, each board member will submit (via email) a detailed BOD meeting report consisting of:
 - a) Personal Objectives and duties of the board position as stated in Part V (Power and Duties of the Board of Directors) in the Rules and Regulations
 - b) Activities undertaken over the past months to meet these objectives
 - c) Plans for upcoming months
3. Thirty-days prior to the National Assembly, each board member will submit (via email) a detailed National Assembly report consisting of:
 - a) Constitutional Objectives
 - b) Activities undertaken to meet each objective throughout their term as board director
 - c) Recommendations for the incoming board director

4. The intraboard communication will be maximized via the following procedure:
 - a) The president and the vice-president will each divide up the contact list of the BOD and will make follow-up calls every three to four weeks in order to enhance information exchange regarding BOD positions and regional issues.
 - b) Following each calling session, the two officers will exchange lists in order to ensure the raised issues are being addressed. The officers will also provide all board members with a report (included in their monthly memo) in the following format:

Board of Directors Member	Issue/Topic of Discussion	Recommendations/Actions to be taken

- c) The president and the vice-president will maintain contact with each other via monthly follow-up phone calls in order to address the issues raised during monthly discussions with other board members.

POSITION STATEMENT ON JOB ACTION

The Canadian Nursing Student’s Association (CNSA) is the official voice of nursing students across the country, representing more than 11,000 students nationally. We feel that the rights of students are of utmost importance and we strive to uphold this principle.

CNSA appreciates how difficult a time this is for your membership. CNSA feels that although this is a time of change in many organizations and governments, nursing students remain the future of Canadian Health Care. We therefore would like to take this opportunity to remind you to consider the effect your actions may have on nursing student activities.

POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING THE CANADIAN REGISTERED NURSES’ EXAMINATION (CRNE)

The CNSA supports the CRNE as a means to measure the competencies of future registered nurses and therefore to protect the public by ensuring that entry-level registered nurses possess the competencies required to practice safely and effectively. The CNSA is however in opposition to the planned changes to the cost of writing the CRNE. The CNSA proposes the following for further consideration by the CNA: The CNSA feels that changes such as these are necessary to ensure the feasibility of current nursing students and nursing graduates to write the CRNE.

The CNSA supports four incremental increases to the cost of writing the CRNE versus the proposed one time increase, with the final cost determined by the provincial governing body. These incremental increases in price will allow nursing students to prepare financially for the cost difference, versus the proposed change.

The CNSA supports the provision of a complimentary CRNE study guide for each nursing student enrolled in, or graduate of, a Canadian nursing degree program. Evidence of enrolment, or graduation, along with a receipt for the study guide would allow the CRNE to be written for the cost of the exam minus the cost of the study guide.

The CNSA supports the provision of a free online study guide to current nursing students enrolled in Canadian nursing degree programs. Access to the guide could be controlled through passwords provided or sold to educational institutions.

The CNSA supports collaboration between the professional organizations and the nursing students. The provision of funding from the CNA to future nurses in the form of funds that would go directly towards supplementing the cost of writing the CRNE.

The CNSA supports the provision of the LeaRN CRNE Readiness Test, currently \$42.70 per use, free of charge to nursing students preparing to write the CRNE.

Finally, the CNSA is concerned with the March 2005 publication date for the new CRNE study guide. The CNSA supports changes such as those above. These changes will demonstrate accountability and professionalism with respect to the launch of the new CRNE.

70% FULL TIME POSITIONS FOR NURSES

NO POSITION STATEMENT in MINUTES

MOTION FORTY-SEVEN – Blythe Corota (OD, Sault College) move to accept the position statement.

Seconded by Becky Lockhart (OD, NEPS U of S)

For – 22

Opposed none Abstentions none

MOTION CARRIED

2006

POSITION STATEMENT: HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a growing problem in Canada that affects not only large urban populations but also rural areas alike.¹ Approximately 17 million people in Canada are homeless and/or experience great difficulty coping with the lack of affordable housing,² both of which are found to have a direct impact on health.³ Further, the determinants of health are broadly affected when the access to proper shelter is deficient.⁴ Overall, it has an impact on individuals, families, and communities, further emphasizing the need for healthcare providers, including nurses, to embrace a leadership role that addresses and advocates for programs that promote affordable housing and strive to assure health of all.

¹ (Stamler & Yui, 2005)

² (TDRC, National Housing Report Card, 2005)

³ (Stamler, Yui, 2005)

⁴ (RNAO, 2004)

Though there is no concrete definition for homelessness, certain classifications have been established. According to the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (2004), « There are different ways in which homelessness occurs:

Absolute Homelessness: Individuals sleeping outside or using public or private shelters

Concealed Homelessness: Individuals who are provisionally lodging with friends or family

Risk of Homelessness: Individuals struggling to meet core housing needs of which affordability, suitability and adequacy norms are all elements. »

Homelessness exists in many different faces which include families, individuals, and youth.⁵ This fact is further supported by an Ottawa-based longitudinal study which found that in 2002 and 2003 « 17% of those interviewed identified themselves as being of Aboriginal descent, compared to their 1% representation in the general Ottawa population » (www.unitedwayottawa.ca). The issue of homelessness has a multiplicity of causes including: eviction, loss of employment, inability to afford the cost of rent, conflicts, as well as mental and physical health problems.⁶ Thus, comprehensive assessment may serve as an effective tool to complement the faculty of nursing skills and resources.

Homelessness has a direct correlation to health outcomes and the accessibility of health services. Also, individuals who are homeless are found to be at an increased risk for several chronic and/or fatal diseases such as the growing concern of Tuberculosis (TB). Individuals who are homeless are 20-300 times more likely to contract TB.⁷

Over the years, housing programs have been decreased or cancelled. From 1984-1993, the federal government cut approximately two billion dollars from the national housing program, and subsequently delivered the biggest hit with the cancellation of the national housing program in 1993.⁸ Financial cuts to any programs often cause great losses. In 2000, the federal government held an inter-provincial and inter-territorial housing summit that proclaimed the plan to create affordable housing.⁹ However, a concrete national housing strategy has not yet been realized. Rather, announcements regarding new housing were

delivered but the materialization of which accounts to fractions.¹⁰ Governments and individuals must act on promises and develop strategies to eliminate homelessness and poverty.

There are many initiatives occurring at the activist level. Two such initiatives include the «Make Poverty History Campaign» and the «1% Solution». « The Make Poverty History» campaign wants to improve aid, trade-justice, eliminate the deficit, and end child poverty in Canada» (www.makepovertyhistory.ca). «The Toronto Disaster Relief Committee (TDRC) initiated the 1% Solution to call on all levels of government to double their commitment to housing programs by restoring and renewing house spending» (www.tdrc.net).

CNSA believes that nurses as well as nursing students, have many roles and responsibilities in assisting with the abolishment of homelessness. Nursing practice will be impacted by homelessness and by the lack of affordable housing due to the emotional, mental, physical, and physiological toll that it has on the health of individuals who are battling housing issues. We have the responsibility to educate and advocate all levels of government, health care professionals, and the public. We must endorse, support and become involved in

⁵ (United Way, 2005)

⁶ (United Way, 2005)

⁷ (Tuberculosis Action Group, 2003)

⁸ (TDRC, 2000)

⁹ (TDRC, National Housing Report Card, 2005)

¹⁰ (TDRC, National Housing Report Card, 2005)

initiatives that call on all levels of government and policy to acknowledge and respond to the crisis of homelessness and the lack of affordable housing in Canada.

References

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- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (2004). *Policy Statement: Homelessness*. Retrieved August 1, 2005 from http://www.rnao.org/html/PDF/RNAO_Policy_Statement_Homelessness.pdf
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ENDORSEMENT OF THE REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (RNAO) BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES (BPGs)

Presented by James Chu and Colleen Ferris

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Nursing Students' Association endorse the Best Practice Guidelines of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario that are evidence-based and used in clinical and educational practice.

Background

- The BPGs were initiated in 1999 with funding from the Ontario Provincial Government.
- BPGs focus on one of the five identified clinical areas: Primary Health Care, Home Health Care, Mental Health Care, Gerontology, and Emergency Care.
- Each guideline that is being developed goes through five phases: planning, development, pilot implementation, evaluation and dissemination/intake.
- Currently 29 guidelines have been developed and another is in the development phase.
- 8 of the guidelines have been translated into French.
- Fact sheets have been developed that correspond to the guidelines. These are available for patients and families.
- RNAO hosts the International Best Practice Guideline Conference.
- Educational tools have been developed to assist educators to incorporate BPGs into their teaching
- RNAO and in collaboration with the Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) have chosen two research proposals that will examine the role of BPGs in improving nursing care.
 - Montreal's McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) will examine the introduction of RNAO's BPGs at five sites of MUHC.

- The second one will be co-funded by the Victorian Order of Nurses and will examine the role of the BPGs in bereavement. This study will occur in Nova Scotia.
- Another BPG study that is occurring in Ontario is looking at the long-term impact of BPGs on nursing care.

Rationale

One of the objectives of CNSA is to increase the awareness of both the existence of and the need for nursing research. The BPGs support this objective and provide tools that can incorporate evidence-base practice into our education. It is important to work in collaboration with our provincial/territorial jurisdictions to support each others initiatives.

Source www.rnao.org