



Registered Nurses Network of BC  
c/o Association of Registered Nurses of BC  
201 – 1847 West Broadway Ave.  
Vancouver, BC V6J 1Y6

## **Network Update #15 - July 6, 2011**

### **Moving Forward into an Exciting Future!**

RN Network members who surf the web may have noticed a series of reports on the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) website pertaining to the decision to withdraw from the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). Many of you were concerned to learn from the CRNBC's April 13, 2011 update the news that, following extensive dialogue with CNA and the Association of Registered Nurses of BC (ARNBC), the CRNBC Board had concluded it was "not feasible at this time for CRNBC to assign its Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) membership to another British Columbia organization"<sup>1</sup> You may also have noted that the CRNBC subsequently posted a report on "positive and constructive" meetings held with CNA May 3, 2011 to discuss possible options for ending CRNBC's jurisdictional membership in CNA in such a manner that BC registered nurses might continue to have their voice heard at the national level. Although we certainly heard your desire to better understand what prompted that decision and what it implied, the ARNBC Board was not in a position to comment.

However, as of today you may have noticed a new announcement on the CRNBC website [and if you haven't yet seen it, you may wish to have a look.<sup>2</sup>] In brief, this update announces that a joint agreement has been reached between the CRNBC and CNA that will allow CRNBC to assign its jurisdictional membership in the CNA back to the CNA as of August 31, 2011. So we are sending out this RN Network Update to bring this important development to your attention.

Also as of today, both CNA and ARNBC have posted on our respective websites a joint statement of commitment to work in partnership to ensure that the professional voice of British Columbia nurses is heard on the topics of nursing, health policy and social policy matters. The statement notes that the two organizations will develop a memorandum of understanding to guide the work over the next twelve months. The details of this will be finalized over the next few months.

On the basis of this public statement, we are now able to enter a new phase that will allow for more open dialogue and consultation with nurses around BC, and facilitate our evolution toward the best organizational format to meet the needs of the BC nursing community. You can look forward to further details of how that consultation and dialogue will unfold. Clearly much remains to be done,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crnbc.ca/crnbc/Announcements/2011/Pages/CNAUpdate.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.crnbc.ca/Pages/Default.aspx>

but as organizational and policy matters are addressed, they will benefit from the open and active dialogue we will be able to have with nurses across the province.

One initial step we are happy to report is that we are immediately entering into active planning for a forum this fall to be co-hosted by the ARNBC and the CNA to bring together various nursing groups and individual nurses for the purpose of obtaining wisdom and advice on the optimal organizational mechanism within BC for maximizing their provincial and national policy capacity. As details of that meeting unfold, we will be posting them on the ARNBC website,<sup>3</sup> so please stay tuned!

All of the details of how nurses can get involved and have a say in the functioning of the ARNBC will unfold in the fullness of time. In the meantime, we are keeping this “RN Network” active as an important and cost effective mechanism for updating those nurses and nursing groups who have signaled their desire to stay informed. Any nurse is welcome to join the Network, so if you do have updated or new contact information, please feel free to forward it to Ms. Owen Dukay [admin@arnbc.ca](mailto:admin@arnbc.ca) from whom we have purchased some secretarial support for now. She will be sending out Network updates and maintaining the distribution list.

Exciting times we live in!  
We'll be back in touch with you soon.

*Rob Calnan, Susan Duncan, Lynette Best, Julie Fraser, Suzanne Johnston, Leanna Loy, Paddy Rodney, Maureen Shaw, Sally Thorne, and Jo Wearing* [board@arnbc.ca](mailto:board@arnbc.ca)

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.arnbc.ca/>