

**RN Network of BC**  
**Background Information**  
**October 29, 2009**

Changes to legislation governing professional regulation led to the folding of the Registered Nurses Association of BC (RNABC) and the creation of a College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC). The more intense focus on regulation required by the provincial legislation, along with other constraints imposed by this change, have meant that the “Association” functions, including articulating the perspectives of registered nurses in regard to the profession and health care planning and delivery, that were part of the work of RNABC, have been either severely constrained or extinguished in the new College structure. As a result, there is now no organization in BC that can offer professional nursing perspectives with regard to health policy on behalf of all RNs. In addition, as a result of the change in mandate, CRNBC is currently evaluating its relationship with the Canadian Nurses Association.

A small informal group of interested CRNBC members began to explore the issue with several of the key players (CRNBC, BCNU, MoH, CNA etc). Based on these discussions they believe it would be a good idea to carry on discussions with a larger number of nurses with varied perspectives from around BC to consider options to address the gap created with the loss of the “association”. Out of this a “Registered Nurses Network of BC” has been formed to support this discussion.

The objects of CRNBC and CNA are provided below for your information. It should be noted that it is CRNBC (and not individual registered nurses) that is the member of CNA.

The duty and objects of CRNBC are in section 16 of the Health Professions Act. This information was taken from the following website:

<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/leg/index.html>

The information is current to July, 2009

**Duty and objects of a College**

- 16** (1) It is the duty of a college at all times
- (a) to serve and protect the public, and
  - (b) to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest.
- (2) A college has the following objects:
- (a) to superintend the practice of the profession;
  - (b) to govern its registrants according to this Act, the regulations and the bylaws of the college;
  - (c) to establish the conditions or requirements for registration of a person as a member of the college;
  - (d) to establish, monitor and enforce standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice and reduce incompetent, impaired or unethical practice amongst registrants;

- (e) to establish and maintain a continuing competency program to promote high practice standards amongst registrants;
- (f) to establish, for a college designated under section 12 (2) (h), a patient relations program to seek to prevent professional misconduct of a sexual nature;
- (g) to establish, monitor and enforce standards of professional ethics amongst registrants;
- (h) to require registrants to provide to an individual access to the individual's health care records in appropriate circumstances;
- (i) to inform individuals of their rights under this Act and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
- (i.1) to establish and employ registration, inquiry and discipline procedures that are transparent, objective, impartial and fair;
- (j) to administer the affairs of the college and perform its duties and exercise its powers under this Act or other enactments;
- (k) in the course of performing its duties and exercising its powers under this Act or other enactments, to promote and enhance the following:
  - (i) collaborative relations with other colleges established under this Act, regional health boards designated under the *Health Authorities Act* and other entities in the Provincial health system, post-secondary education institutions and the government;
  - (ii) interprofessional collaborative practice between its registrants and persons practising another health profession;
  - (iii) the ability of its registrants to respond and adapt to changes in practice environments, advances in technology and other emerging issues.

The current objects of CNA were established in March 1996. The following information was taken from the Canadian Nurses Association's Letters Patent posted on the CNA website at [http://www.cna-aiic.ca/cna/documents/pdf/publications/CNA\\_letters\\_patent\\_Bylaws\\_June\\_08.pdf](http://www.cna-aiic.ca/cna/documents/pdf/publications/CNA_letters_patent_Bylaws_June_08.pdf)

- To promote high standards of nursing practice, education, research and administration in order to achieve quality nursing care in the public interest.
- To promote uniform and high quality regulatory practices in the public interest and in collaboration with nursing regulatory bodies.
- To act in the public interest for Canadian nursing and nurses, providing national and international leadership in nursing and health issues.