15.6: Other Organizations

Canadian Nurses Association

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) is the national professional voice for registered nurses, representing almost 139,000 RNs. Membership in CNA varies according to provincial and territorial requirements. Members include provincial and territorial nursing associations and colleges, independent RNs from Ontario and Quebec, retired nurses, Canadian Nursing Students’ Association, and Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties.

CNA works to advance nursing excellence in order to (1) achieve positive health outcomes in the public interest; (2) promote profession-led regulation in the public interest; (3) act in the public interest for Canadian RNs, providing national and international leadership in nursing and health; and (4) advocate in the public interest for a publicly funded, not-for-profit health system.

Figure 15.5.1 SRNA Represents Saskatchewan RNs at the National Level

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In Saskatchewan, RNs are members of CNA through registration with the SRNA. A portion of your annual membership fee is directed to CNA on your behalf. One of the benefits of being a member of CNA is representation in CNA’s national advocacy and policy advancements. See the CNA’s webpage CNA on the Hill for more information on the advocacy and policy initiatives CNA is pursuing.

**Essential Learning Activity 15.5.1**

Read more about the CNA on the About Us and Member Benefits sections of its website, then answer the following questions:

1. What are the CNA’s objectives and goals?
2. What are the benefits of being a member of CNA?

**Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions**

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) is another organization representing nurses, with the mandate to protect nurses and speak on behalf of the profession. It is made up of provincial unions and includes almost 200,000 nurses. Through membership with your provincial union, you are represented by the CFNU. CFNU provides a national voice for issues and concerns of Canadian nurses and supports provincial union activities. CFNU works hard to advance solutions to improve patient care and working conditions and advocates for the maintenance of a strong publicly funded health care system. The organization also engages in the development, utilization, and dissemination of evidence to inform policy decisions. It also works as an information resource, keeping nurses aware of current issues and advocating for viable solutions.

**Essential Learning Activity 15.5.2**

Read more about the CFNU’s advocacy on their website, then answer the following question:

What are the political action initiatives of CFNU?

**Canadian Nurses Protective Society**

The Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS) is a not-for-profit society that offers legal advice, risk management services, legal assistance, and liability protection to eligible RN members. In Saskatchewan, membership with CNPS is facilitated through your SRNA license.

The mission of CNPS is to “exist so that Canadian nurses are enabled to effectively manage their professional legal risks, and are appropriately assisted when in professional legal jeopardy” (2018). CNPS provides advice on foundational and arising issues facing RN practice through various publications, webinars, workshops, and presentations. Resources are available to address general nursing topics as well as emerging trends that affect RN functioning, such as medical
assistance in dying (MAID) and medical marihuana.

**Essential Learning Activity 15.5.3**

Learn more about the CNPS’s mandate, services, and publications. For more information, see the CNPS infoLAWS bulletins.

**Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association**

The Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association (CINA), formerly known as the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, is the longest serving Canadian association for Indigenous health professionals. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of Indigenous people in Canada. This is achieved through engagement activities related to recruitment, retention, and support of Indigenous nurses and Indigenous nursing knowledge, consultation, research, and education. Its mission is to improve the health of Indigenous people, by supporting Indigenous nurses and by promoting the development and practice of Indigenous health nursing.

Any individual interested in Indigenous nursing or Indigenous health care issues is welcome to become a member of CINA. Voting rights, however, are reserved for those RNs, RN(NP)s, RPNs, and LPNs of Indigenous ancestry.

**Essential Learning Activity 15.5.4**

Read about the formation of the CINA and answer the following question:

1. What were the visionary goals of Jocelyn Bruyere and Jean Goodwill, two of the organization’s founders?

Read more about CINA projects, then answer the following question:

1. Describe some specific CINA Projects.