



April 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing about a decision taken by the board of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) on Saturday, April 10, 2010, regarding their continued membership in the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA).

CRNBC votes to withdraw

Since the establishment of the *Health Professions Act* by the BC government in 2005, CRNBC's mandate and function have become singularly focused around regulation. As a result, CRNBC has been concerned about the perceived conflict of having regulatory and advocacy activities in a single organization. In light of this concern, the CRNBC board passed a motion for CRNBC to "initiate a measured and managed withdrawal from CNA as a jurisdictional member." The next step for CRNBC is to bring the board's decision to their annual general meeting on June 25 for a vote by its members. If the vote passes, CRNBC will provide CNA with 12 months notice for withdrawal. Although we respect the CRNBC board decision, we are deeply saddened by it.

CNA's next steps

Going forward, CNA is engaged in purposeful relationships with CRNBC and with the new emerging RN Network of BC, an organization working to ensure that nurses of BC are active on policy and advocacy matters and that their professional voice is heard provincially and nationally.

It's a time of renewal for CNA. We are taking the implications of this issue, and others, into account as part of our current strategic planning and governance review process. Advancing the practice and profession of nursing in 2010 and beyond means putting new structures and processes in place to increase membership engagement and strengthen our policy-development processes. CNA is a strong, resilient national professional association – the unified voice for Canada's nurses. We will continue to protect profession-led regulation in Canada by supporting excellence in nursing practice and high standards of practice in all domains of nursing – and by working in the public interest to address important nursing, health and social issues.

Members' input essential

As your president, I am dedicated to ensuring that our organization addresses the priorities you see for your national association. Now, more than ever, *your* ideas and input are essential to ensure that our future direction is aimed squarely at the targets set by our members so that we can fully capitalize on opportunities to bring about important improvements to the health system.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kaaren Neufeld".

Kaaren Neufeld, RN, MN
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