

## **Advocacy in action: tools for sparking change – Summary of Q & A**

**1) With regards to the current election, I am confused over all the political talk. Can I have some clarification as where each party stands to make an informed decision?**

More information can be found at RNAO's website:

Why Health Matters: A nurses' guide to the 2015 federal election

<http://rnao.ca/policy/reports/why-health-matters>

**2) Where can the toolkit be accessed?**

Taking Action: A toolkit for becoming politically involved is online at RNAO's website:

<http://rnao.ca/policy/political-action/political-action-information-kit>

**3) Is this resource recognized and used by other disciplines eg health promotion specialists, nutritionists, physicians, politicians, municipal/regional staff etc.?**

The intended audience for the toolkit is nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing students but many of the resources found within could be helpful for anyone who is interested in political action.

**4) What happens if the work of a interest group or chapter is contradictory to the values or thoughts of the general membership or RNAO leadership?**

When voicing a position, it is important that you consider who you are representing. It could be yourself as an individual, an employee of your organization, or your professional association. RNAO is a membership driven association that speaks out for registered nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing students. Before communicating as a representative of RNAO (i.e. Interest Group Chair), it is important that you understand the values and positions of the organization. Interest Groups agree to support the goals and objectives of RNAO, and must meet the requirements set out in the RNAO bylaws relating to Interest Groups. If you have contradictory positions, connect with home office staff for a discussion, so we can better understand potential concerns and offer clarification.

**Topics that webinar attendees are interested in/working on (as reported in the chat):**

- Climate change
- Staffing changes (cuts) at my local hospital.
- Need for appropriate action from the federal law to require insurance companies to cover fertility preservation treatments and in vitro fertilization to individuals under the age of 40 who have to undergo cancer treatment in Canada
- Basic income guarantee
- Banning conversion therapy in Canada
- Physician Assisted Suicide
- Advocacy for elder abuse.
- Nursing shortage
- Pharmacare
- Dental Care
- Making Health better in Ontario
- Deleting private companies
- Safe Walkable communities
- Establishing written policy regarding the Baby Friendly Initiative in my university
- Injustice of homelessness and lack of funding for supportive housing
- National senior strategy statement from Liberal Party expected soon
- All-candidates meetings
- Working with RNAO on developing a resolution to come forward at RNAO on endorsing BIG
- Arranging to meet with local candidates
- Developing policy within LTC to utilize infusion pumps for palliative care and IV antibiotics to reduce cost in hospital transfers