



COLLEGE OF NURSES
OF ONTARIO
ORDRE DES INFIRMIÈRES
ET INFIRMIERS DE L'ONTARIO

THE STANDARD OF CARE.
L'EXCELLENCE EN SOINS

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December 18, 2025

Doris Grinspun
Chief Executive Officer
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
500-4211 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M2P 2A6

Dear Doris,

I am writing to follow up on our meeting on November 6, 2025, to discuss the ability of retired nurses in good standing to refer to themselves as RN, retired.

While the title of the resolution passed at the RNAO Annual General Meeting was "[Expanding title protection to retired RNs](#)", we clarified the need for this request when we met with RNAO staff, members of the RNAO Board and members of the Retired Nurses' Interest Group.

The current title provisions enable nurses in the Non-Practicing Class to utilize protected titles via their on-going registration in the Non-Practicing Class. Nurses registered in this class are not entitled to practice in any manner, including, for example, volunteering as a nurse. When registered in the Non-Practicing Class, nurses may use the title 'retired' in conjunction with RPN, RN or NP (for example, Jane Doe, RN, retired), again, as long as they do not present themselves as entitled to practice.

The Non-Practising Class is for registrants who want to keep their membership at times when they are not practicing in Ontario. The main difference between the Non-Practising Class and the other classes is that registrants in this class cannot practice nursing in Ontario, either paid or unpaid.

Those who have not maintained registration with CNO in their retirement do not have access to the protected titles. From a public safety standpoint, it is essential that all using the protected titles have oversight by CNO.

I do hope that this information and our earlier discussion were useful as it relates to RNAO's resolution.

Sincerely,

Silvie Crawford, RN, BHScN, LLM (Health Law)
Registrar & CEO

cc: Lhamo Dolkar, RNAO President
Sue LeBeau, RNAO President-Elect