



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 16, 2011

By E-mail

Doris Grinspun
Executive Director
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
158 Pearl Street
Toronto, Ontario M5H 1L3

Dear Doris:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 12, 2011 regarding the decision of the College of Nurses of Ontario to begin negotiations to bring a new computer adaptive RN entry to practice examination to Canada in 2015.

As regulators, it is our mandate to ensure that individuals joining the nursing profession have the knowledge and skill to practise safely and ethically. The entry to practice examination is a vital tool in meeting that component of our regulatory mandate. We believe that the examination we have chosen for the future is the best mechanism to ensure that individuals entering the profession meet the entry to practice competencies.

All regulators involved in this decision are strongly committed to leading edge regulatory processes. While we are confident that the current examination is a credible assessment of entry to practice competencies, we all agreed on the need to move to leading edge practices in testing – including computer adaptive testing.

We are committed to an evidence-based and fair approach to decision making and issued a request for proposal with very specific requirements for our future examination. As you know, any RFP process is highly confidential. All participant regulators have been scrupulous in maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of that process.

I remind you that the College's new registration regulation, which we expect to pass in 2012, includes the requirement for all applicants to successfully complete a jurisprudence examination. That examination will address Ontario's laws related to health care, the College's standards and the practice environment.

Information is posted on our web site about our decision to partner with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to offer a computer adaptive exam. As you can see from the questions and answers, there will be consultation and opportunity for nurses to be involved in the exam development process. As regulators, we will have oversight of the process to ensure we meet our regulatory mandate to provide a credible, fair, accessible, and affordable entry to practice examination for future Canadian nurses.

CNO and RNAO have a longstanding history of collegial relations, based on mutual respect for our different mandates. CNO has made an evidence-based, expert-informed regulatory decision which we believe is in the interests of the public and will enhance access to the profession. We anticipate that RNAO will respect our regulatory accountability in this area.

Sincerely,



Anne L. Coghlan, RN, MScN
Executive Director and CEO

AC/jh

c. Kris Voycey
Council President