



Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

Angela Verrier
President
Council of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO)

February 23, 2015

Re: Proposed By-Law Amendments

Dear Ms. Verrier:

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) appreciates the opportunity to provide CNO with feedback regarding two proposed by-law changes: a) Fees and b) Register and Information from Members.

Fees:

It is our understanding that the CNO has proposed increasing the evaluation fee for international applicants to correspond with an increased fee imposed by the Centre for the Evaluation of Health Professions Educated Abroad (CEHPEA). It is unclear why CEHPEA requires a 100 per cent fee increase (from \$200-\$400). No justification is given by CNO within *The Standard*, nor in response to our e-mail request to CNO for more information (beyond indicating that CEHPEA's fees have increased). Moreover, it is concerning to see a proposed fee increase for international applicants given a number of other recent fee increases for this category.¹ Newcomers to Canada face a number of hurdles in establishing themselves, including financial barriers. Therefore, RNAO recommends that CNO work with CEHPEA to streamline its processes and achieve the necessary efficiencies to prevent such a steep fee increase.

Register and Information from Members:

It is our understanding that CNO has proposed increasing the amount of information available to the public through the online registry. RNAO supports efforts to increase transparency and public safety. The proposed by-law changes relate to clarifying the status of professional misconduct/incompetence allegations referred to the discipline committee; adding information when an application to the discipline committee has been made for reinstatement; adding information where a finding of guilt has been made in relation to criminal offenses, offenses pertaining to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and other offenses impacting nursing practice; and restrictions relating to nursing practice imposed by a court. RNAO feels that the public has a right to know about this information and that nurses, as self-regulated professionals, have a duty to proactively disclose it to the public in the form of the registry.

Once again, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to this request. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding our feedback.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Grinspun". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a double horizontal line.

Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), O.ONT.
Chief Executive Officer
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

c. Anne Coghlan, Executive Director and CEO, College of Nurses of Ontario

¹ RNAO correspondence with CNO dated August 14, 2014 re: Proposed changes to Fees By-Law.