



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

## **One member, one vote**

RNAO members now have a unique opportunity to shape their professional association. In March, members will be eligible to vote on issues that relate to governance of the organization. We've prepared a list of questions and answers to provide you with all the information you need about the changes affecting RNAO your voice in shaping its future.

### **Question: What's all this about?**

Answer: Bill 65 – Ontario's *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which will govern organizations such as RNAO, requires individual members to have a direct say on governance issues that affect their organization. The legislation is supposed to come into effect in the near future.

### **Question: What does this mean?**

Answer: It means eligible members will be able to vote on things such as the election of board members, the appointment of auditors and other changes such as fee increases.

### **Question: Who decided this?**

Answer: The Liberal government introduced Bill 65. It received royal assent in the legislative assembly in October 2010. The legislation is targeted to come into force at a future date. When the law is fully in effect, not-for-profit organizations such as RNAO must comply.

### **Question: Do I have to vote?**

Answer: You are not required to vote, but we encourage eligible members to do so.

### **Question: What does this change mean?**

Answer: It means every member can have a say on any number of issues that affect the work RNAO does for its members, and who is elected to the board of directors.

### **Question: When does this happen?**

Answer: Voting will begin at 12 noon (EST) on March 18, 2013 and continue until 12 noon on April 4, 2013 (EST). The results will be announced at the association's Annual General Meeting on April 12, 2013.

### **Question: How do I vote?**

Answer: Voting will take place electronically via RNAO's website. Every eligible member will receive voting instructions about the location of the voting website and any password necessary to cast their vote. Members must create an account at [myRNAO.ca](http://myRNAO.ca) in order to vote.



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**Question: Will anyone at RNAO know how I voted?**

Answer: No. Although you will need your RNAO identification information to log on to the voting site, how you voted will be completely anonymous. The process we are using is similar to Elections Canada or Elections Ontario, where you need to present identification so officials can check your name with those on the list of eligible voters. However, once you have a ballot “in hand,” how you mark your ballot is private and known only to you. Even though you will need your RNAO information to log on to RNAO’s website to cast your vote, the results will be tabulated with no identifiers to track how you actually voted.

**Question: Can I vote more than once?**

Answer: No. When you submit your vote, the system will record that you have voted and will store how you have voted in a separate, anonymous database.

**Question: I am a nursing student. Am I eligible to vote?**

Answer: No, undergraduate nursing students, associates and friends of RNAO are not eligible to vote.

**Question: I am retired. Am I eligible to vote?**

Answer: Yes, retired nurses who are members of RNAO are eligible to vote.

**Question: I used to attend RNAO’s Annual General Meeting as a voting delegate. Will voting delegates still be required to attend the AGM?**

Answer: Resolutions that members would like to bring forward as policy priorities for the association will be handled in the same way they always have. The only difference is that members who attend the AGM will be called “representatives” instead of “voting delegates.”

**Question: Will individual voting occur every year?**

Answer: Yes. Every year, prior to the Annual General Meeting, issues to be brought forward for a vote by individual members will be posted via RNAO’s website.

**Question: I don’t own a computer. How can I vote?**

Answer: There are lots of ways to vote even if you do not own a computer. You can go to your local library or community centre. All you need is your RNAO identification.



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**Question: I still have questions. Who can answer them at RNAO?**

Answer: RNAO staff will be available to answer any and all questions about the voting process. Just call our toll-free number and speak to a staff member in our membership department. The toll-free number is 1-800-268-7199, if you live outside Toronto or 416-599-1925 if you are calling within the city.

**Question: What happens if I run into a problem while I am in the middle of voting?**

Technical support will be available during the voting period. Hours for support are:

Monday March 18 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday March 19 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 20 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday March 21 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday March 22 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday March 23 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday March 24 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday March 25 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday March 26 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 27 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday March 28 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday March 29 Easter Holiday

Saturday March 30 Easter Holiday

Sunday March 31 Easter Holiday

Monday April 1 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 2 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 3 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday April 4 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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