

Sandra MacDonald-Rencz
Executive Director, Office of Nursing Policy
Health Policy Branch, Health Canada
Room B529, 200 promenade Eglantine Driveway
PL 1905B Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

October 23, 2007

Dear Ms. MacDonald-Rencz:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Office of Nursing Policy's document on *Future Roles of Clinical Nurses* as well as recommended actions proposed for nursing stakeholder organizations in Canada. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) appreciates this initiative to generate discussion on the future of nursing. In our rapidly evolving practice environments, we share the common goal of addressing nursing shortages and constrained scopes of practice in order to better address the health needs of our clients and our nation.

However, we continue to have profound concerns about *Toward 2020: Visions for Nursing* and the subsequent *Future Roles of Clinical Nurses* that evolved from it. These concerns are outlined in the attached *RNAO Response to the Canadian Nurses' Association on Toward 2020: Visions for Nursing* (March 2007) and *RNAO's feedback on Future Roles of Clinical Nurses* (October 2007).

A compelling rationale and evidence for a single professional nursing association in each province has not been provided. RNAO sees great value in having separate nursing organizations (RNs, RPNs, regulatory, union, and professional association) in Ontario. We have great respect for and strong collaborative relationships with RPNAO, CNO, and ONA, and we are not seeking to merge into a single professional association in this province. Our current model has safeguarded the public and has allowed the nursing profession to articulate our preferred vision for health, health care, and nursing.

RNAO will continue its advocacy on utilizing health-care professionals to their full scope of practice and innovative health-care delivery within a publicly funded, not-for-profit, universal health-care system. We will continue and advance nursing leadership through dissemination and implementation of our Healthy Work Environments Best Practice Guidelines on *Developing and Sustaining Nursing Leadership*.

We would be pleased to meet to continue this essential dialogue on preferred futures of nursing in Canada.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Ferguson-Paré". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Ferguson-Paré, RN, PhD, CHE
President, RNAO