



# SRNA POSITION STATEMENT

## PUBLIC REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH

### REGULATORY DECISION MAKING

*Competent, caring nursing for the people of Saskatchewan*

#### **Regulation**

- ⊙ Legislation governing the regulation of health professions exists for the benefit of the public.
- ⊙ Self-regulatory bodies must be responsive to increasing levels of public, government and third part scrutiny of the shape and direction of the health system, including the regulation of health professions.
- ⊙ Public participation is essential in all decision making processes related to health systems, including the regulation of health professions and occupations.
- ⊙ Significant public participation results in expanded regulatory transparency and accountability.

#### **Public Participation in Regulation**

- ⊙ Public participation serves to expand the regulatory body's awareness of changing societal and bioethical value systems.
- ⊙ Public participation serves to increase the regulatory body's awareness of the changing health needs of the public and their preferred ways of meeting these needs.
- ⊙ Public participation serves to ensure that the regulatory body is responsive and accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.
- ⊙ Public participation serves to increase the public's knowledge of the role that health regulatory bodies play within society.

#### **Role of the Public Representatives**

- ⊙ Public representatives serve as advocates of the public interest.
- ⊙ Public representatives bring the concerns of the consumer to the attention of the regulatory body.
- ⊙ Public representatives alert the public and regulatory bodies regarding actions which are contrary to the public interest.
- ⊙ Public representatives report to the public at large and/or the organization which nominates them.

#### **Selection of Public Representatives**

- ⊙ The selection process seeks to ensure that public representatives represent the diverse backgrounds of Saskatchewan people. This diversity helps to ensure that decisions made by the regulatory body adequately reflect the needs and concerns of the citizens of Saskatchewan.
- ⊙ A prescribed unbiased selection process strengthens the role of the public representative as well as the credibility of the regulatory body.

*Approved by Council  
September, 1995*

*Reaffirmed by Council  
December, 2001  
November, 2006*

#### **Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association**

2066 Retallack Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 7X5  
(306) 359-4200 • Toll Free 1-800-667-9945 • FAX (306) 525-0849  
Email: [info@srna.org](mailto:info@srna.org) • Website: <http://www.srna.org>