

# Council Notes

**The SRNA 12-member Council met for three days, June 12 to 14, 2018. The following is an overview of the discussions that occurred and decisions that were made.**

## **Council Orientation**

Council welcomed two new members, Liz Domm, RN as a member at large and Doug Finnie, as a new public representative. Council also welcomed back Betty Metzler who secured her position on Council through acclamation and Marilyn Barlow who was elected to her position again.

Much of the first two days were spent in orientation and reviewing governance roles and procedures. Orientation activities included an overview of The Registered Nurses Act and SRNA Bylaws with Roger LePage from Miller, Thompson LLP, a review of the role of the SRNA, the role of board members, SRNA programs and operational structure, primary Council linkages and governance process monitoring including a review of the mission and ENDS. Council also met with the SRNA Discipline Committee to receive an overview of their work and received a presentation from SRNA staff on the role of the Investigations Committee.

## **Truth and Reconciliation**

Council continues to be committed to acknowledging the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Elder Jeanne Sutherland attended her first SRNA Council meeting, opening each morning and closing on the final day with a prayer. Elder Jeanne will be invited to all future Council meetings. Truth and reconciliation is a standing agenda item and as such the third day began with a series of videos that were created at the gathering for miyo mahcihowin (meaning physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being) that was hosted by the University of Saskatchewan back in March. .

## **Action on Resolutions**

Council reviewed and made decisions on the resolutions that were presented and passed by the membership at the annual meeting. Council has four options for addressing resolutions: delegate action to the SRNA Executive Director, take action on it as a committee or as a whole, decide not to pursue the resolution or any other option as proposed by Council.

The following resolutions were discussed and decisions of how to move forward were made:

**Resolution #1:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRNA Bylaw 5 Section # (13) a and b and include all references to RN(NP) throughout all SRNA regulatory documents be changed to allow the nurse practitioner credential be changed from being written as RN(NP) to be written as NP with no parentheses.

Council directed the executive director to undertake an environmental scan on the use of parentheses in Canadian nursing regulation and to obtain a legal opinion on the need for including RN in the SRNA RN(NP) designation. Once the work is completed, it will be brought forward to the Bylaws Committee of Council.

**Resolution #2:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association lobby/work with the Government of Saskatchewan to revise legislation to enable RN(NP)s to admit/discharge into and out of LTC.

Council directed the executive director to complete an environmental scan on provincial legislation and policy on this topic as well as the position of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. The scan will also include legislation and/or policy in other jurisdictions and considerations will be made to extend it beyond long-term care and into other areas within health care where it would improve patient care.

**Resolution #3:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SRNA establish RN practising membership fee increases of \$21.00, for 2019 and \$5.50 for 2020.

Council directed Executive Director Carolyn Hoffman to proceed with implementation, beginning in the 2019 registration year.

**Resolution #4:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SRNA establish a Graduate Nurse Fee increase of \$15.50 for 2019.

Council directed Executive Director Carolyn Hoffman to proceed with implementation, beginning in the 2019 registration year.

**Resolution #5:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SRNA create an annual award of excellence for the member or nursing group who is moving Reconciliation forward in Saskatchewan.

Implementation of this resolution will proceed, with the first award in this category to be given in 2019.

### **Council Policies for RN(NP)s to Prescribe Drug Therapeutics for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Methadone for Pain, Particularly Palliative Care**

Council was provided a presentation from staff to report on work underway to develop council policies for RN(NP)s to prescribe drug therapeutics for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and methadone for pain, particularly palliative care. The following steps are underway:

- Creation of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Group Opioid Use Disorder and Methadone Prescribing:
  - Communication with Dr. Karen Shaw, CPSS, regarding provincial collaborative work.
  - Draft Terms of Reference and Committee Composition developed for SRNA Interdisciplinary Advisory Group Opioid Use Disorder and Methadone Prescribing.
  - Potential committee members have been identified and a letter of invitation to participate on the advisory group was sent out

- Literature Review SRNA staff are also working with provincial and federal Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) employees to obtain recent research over the previous two years that will inform decisions about education, practicum, preceptorship and audit requirements for RN(NP)s to prescribe for OUD and Methadone for pain.

Council polices are targeted to be submitted for Approval at the August Council meeting.

## **Discipline Committee Resource Pool Reappointment**

Council accepted a recommendation from the Membership Advisory Committee to reappoint Janna Balkwill, RN as a member of the Discipline Committee Resource Pool. Janna will be serving her second term on the Committee as her first term will be officially complete on June 30, 2018. Her second term will end on June 30, 2023.

## **Report from the President**

President Joanne Petersen reported on her activities since the last Council meeting. Joanne attended a number of conferences including the gathering for miyo mahcihowin, and the annual meetings of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses and the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association. She attended budget day at the legislature, had a meeting with the NDP in April and attended the Human Services Committee Meeting on May 14th. And finally, Joanne shared with Council that she brought SRNA greetings to her daughter's SCBScN pinning ceremony on May 22nd, solidifying three generations of nurses in her family.

## **Message from the Executive Director**

SRNA Executive Director, Carolyn Hoffman presented her report to Council. Some of the updates she provided included:

- Notice of appeal for the Carolyn Strom case and that SUN has requested intervenor status in the appeal.
- The Canadian Nurse Practitioner Exam was computerized for the first time in May, with 13 Saskatchewan writers and a 100% pass rate.
- A report on the Saskatchewan pharmacist scope of practice changes including the ability to prescribe antibiotics for urinary tract infections.
- The SRNA 2018 administrative bylaws have been submitted and accepted and the draft regulatory bylaws are being reviewed by the Ministry of Health.
- An update on RNs Leading change including the reporting of 110 members licensed as an RN with Additional Authorized practice and that RN Specialty Practices project is development with a goal to increase understanding, development and implementation by members and employers.
- An update on the new SRNA Practice Call Management Database and the Online Communities of Practice.

## **Annual Meeting and Conference Evaluation**

Council received a presentation from staff on the results of the evaluations from the SRNA Conference and Annual Meeting. The majority of respondents of the survey were registered nurses with 75 per cent being SRNA members for more than 21 years. More than half of respondents work in urban areas with 88 per cent working in direct care or education. The annual meeting was the most attended event with 89 per cent of respondents stating that they have attended the annual meeting previously. More than 80 per cent of respondents indicated that the conference provided information that would be useful in their work with key themes including leadership, SRNA knowledge/understanding and CNPS updates. Respondents found the most value in networking, speaker presentations, annual meeting and CNPS.

The evaluations demonstrated that leadership is an area of on-going interest for members and a great deal of importance was placed on truth and reconciliation. In addition, members expressed a desire to hear from prominent speakers from across Canada.

Go forward actions will include the establishment of an advisory committee, increased scope of promotion, a continuation of Member Night and potentially scheduling concurrent sessions more than once to allow attendees the opportunity to attend more than one topic of interest.

## **Annual Retreat**

Council held a discussion regarding the annual retreat and strategic planning session scheduled for August 28 to 30, which will be the next time they meet.