

The Benefit of ARNBC/CNA Membership

The Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (ARNBC) would like to take this opportunity to clarify our relationship with the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and to help nurses understand the roles of the two organizations, and how to take advantage of the opportunities and privileges offered by both.

If you are a registered nurse or nurse practitioner in British Columbia, and hold an active registration with the CRNBC, then you are automatically a member of ARNBC – at no additional cost to you. The model of universal membership has been consistent in our provincial nursing association since 1914, and ARNBC is proud to carry this legacy forward.

Membership gives you access to all of the services and membership privileges that the ARNBC provides – and it gives you an avenue through which you can share your opinion on important policy initiatives that impact your daily practice. ARNBC is B.C.'s representative to CNA, so your ARNBC membership connects you to your national professional association. CNA is an Association of Associations– it does not have individual memberships. Instead, the provincial and territorial nursing associations, including ARNBC, make up the membership of the national association. Being a member of ARNBC is the only way to ensure your voice is heard on the national and international level.

Our commitment to all B.C. nurses is that we will bring your voice to CNA and link you with your national professional nursing association. We do this in five key ways:

1. Through our president, who is a member of the CNA Board of Directors and brings a B.C. perspective to CNA board meetings.
2. By partnering with CNA on priority strategic, policy and communication initiatives and by providing input into CNA toolkits, webinars, position statements and other tools for practice.
3. By sharing with our members the latest information about the work CNA is undertaking and any opportunities available to have input into CNA initiatives.
4. By providing opportunities for B.C. nurses to showcase their work to a much wider audience or participate on a national level at meetings, events or even parliamentary committees focused on nursing issues that matter to you.
5. By ensuring you continue to receive the *Canadian Nurse* magazine and all the other benefits, such as reduced fees or preferred rates for CNA's certification program and other continuing education courses, that come with CNA membership.

ARNBC's close, collaborative relationship with CNA continues to grow and evolve. In the past two years, many B.C. nurses have represented the ARNBC as voting delegates at important CNA meetings; we had a great response to our recent student mentorship offer through which qualified nursing students will attend CNA board meetings as observers; and we are an active participant in CNA campaigns that strive to shine a spotlight on the amazing achievements of nurses. In turn, ARNBC benefits from the support and knowledge CNA has willingly shared with us as we moved from a small, ad-hoc group of nurses to the strong, autonomous association we are today.

Collaboration is one of the most important roles for any healthcare organization. ARNBC recognizes the importance of working with our colleagues from across all nursing organizations and across Canada, and we are eager to learn from the wisdom and experience of the entire nursing family. We will continue to strive for exceptional collaborative relationships with our national body, and our provincial counterparts – the CRNBC and BCNU - recognizing that individual nurses and the profession itself will only be successful if we work together.

ARNBC is proud to bring the voice of B.C. nurses to the national and international stage.