



March 18, 2015

Association of Registered Nurses of BC

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## **ARNBC ADDS NEW BOARD POSITION: REGIONAL DIRECTOR, FIRST NATIONS**

VANCOUVER--A new Director will soon take a permanent seat at the ARNBC Board table with the addition of Regional Director, First Nations to the newly amended bylaws of the Association.

“There are well-documented disparities in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal British Columbians,” said Julie Fraser, ARNBC President. “We have added a dedicated First Nations Director to our Board, because we are committed to bringing together the expertise and knowledge of the nursing and Aboriginal communities in a way that will bring lasting and meaningful change to the health and well-being of B.C.’s Aboriginal people. Building on the Indigenous Knowledge of our Aboriginal nurses will enable better understanding of Aboriginal issues and increase the cultural competency of the entire nursing profession.”

ARNBC is committed to working with Aboriginal peoples to identify relevant, community-based solutions to support healing, better health, and better care in communities. ARNBC will collaborate with Aboriginal communities to develop, use, and evaluate culturally sensitive research and evidence that will increase First Nations influence in health programs, design and delivery at the local, regional, provincial, national and international levels.

“I am so proud that ARNBC has taken this step which signifies an enormous shift in thinking about Aboriginal Health Nursing,” said Tania Dick, from Dzawada’enuxw First Nation and an ARNBC Director at Large. “This will change the landscape of nursing in B.C. by giving voice to the expert Indigenous Knowledge of our nurses and our communities, ensuring continuity at all times, influencing change and ultimately eliminating the health disparities facing B.C.’s Aboriginal people.”

To qualify to run for this two-year position, individuals must be a practicing B.C. registered nurse or nurse practitioner and must be Aboriginal (First Nations, Inuit or Métis). Call for nominations for 2015 to 2017 is now open, and will close on April 17, 2015. For more information, visit <http://www.arnbc.ca/agm/index.php>.

Aboriginal Health Nursing is one of the four primary policy areas identified by the ARNBC for development and engagement. Currently, ARNBC works with other health and nursing partners such as the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC) to advance aboriginal health and aboriginal health nursing.

ARNBC makes a difference for the health and health care of British Columbians as the professional voice for nursing leadership, policy and practice. Representing more than 37,000 British Columbia registered nurses and nurse practitioners, the Association works together with the regulatory college and the union to ensure the advancement of the nursing profession in all areas of the health care system.

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