

May 8 2015

Coalition of BC Nursing Associations Supports ARNBC

It is with deep concern that we write in support of the Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia, as they face significant legal challenges brought on by the BC Nurses Union. If this legal challenge proceeds, we are concerned that inadvertent consequences, which invalidate the credibility, value and importance of professional associations in British Columbia, may occur.

ARNBC provides an important perspective on health and public policy issues in British Columbia and is critical to moving the profession forward in a way that neither the Union (BCNU) nor the Regulator (CRNBC) can. As the leadership of other BC Nursing Associations and the Educators, we worry that this action is intended to dismantle the ‘three pillar’ system that has proven to be successful in many jurisdictions where different functions are represented by the Union, the Regulator and the Association.

Our four associations – the Association of Registered Nurses of BC, the Association of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC, the BC Nurse Practitioner Association, and the Nursing Education Council of BC, have developed a collaborative relationship that recognizes the importance of building strong bridges of support that will advance nursing and strengthen the voice of all nurses. This coalition of nursing associations represents nurses from four nursing groups in British Columbia – Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses as well as Nurse Educators, and is a unique and extraordinary undertaking that, to our knowledge, has never before been achieved between nursing associations anywhere in Canada. Our experience developing a strong partnership with one voice demonstrates that nursing groups can work effectively together for the good of the profession and patients, and that differences and challenges can be resolved without legal actions that are costly to nurses and detrimental to the public image of nursing.

We are writing this letter in support of our fellow association and members of the coalition. We urge BCNU to take a position of leadership for the good of the profession and individual nurses; to cease these legal actions against ARNBC and work collaboratively with these organizations to resolve outstanding issues. We ask the BCNU to join ARNBC in a shared vision of working together as part of the ‘three pillar’ system to build a healthier, sustainable healthcare system.

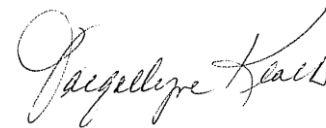
Sincerely,



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