Steering Committee Update

June 14, 2014

As you may be aware, we have new regulated health profession legislation that is expected to be proclaimed as soon as the fall of 2014. *The Regulated Health Professions Act* (assented 2009) focuses primarily on protection of the public through regulation; therefore the current relationship with between the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) will become a conflict of interest. The CRNM Board has been advised by the Manitoba government that the relationship cannot continue (See Board Highlights, p. 5; CRNM, 2012).

In 2012 at the CRNM AGM, Manitoba registered nurses confirmed the value of and made a commitment to an ongoing relationship with the CNA. As you may know, the CRNM held three open meetings early this year to discuss the changing relationship between CRNM and the CNA and the subsequent need to re-establish a professional RN association in Manitoba. Out of these meetings a volunteer steering committee was formed with members from practice, education and leadership to facilitate this process.

The steering committee members are:

- Claire Betker RN
- Karen Dunlop RN
- Tracey Fallak RN – Co-Chair
- Robin Finney RN– Co-Chair
- Sarah Michaluk RN
- Sarah Painter RN
- Debbie Purchase RN
- Margaret Rauliuk NP

This update is to share what the steering committee of the new *Manitoba RN Network* has been up to over the past couple of months leading to the CNA Biennium.

The Manitoba RN Network is approaching this work with the belief that Manitoba RNs need an organization to support excellence in professional practice, speak to issues affecting nurses and to advocate on behalf of the health of Manitobans. We need an association to act as the professional practice voice of registered nursing in Manitoba and maintain the provincial jurisdictional membership of Manitoba RNs in CNA. The Manitoba RN Network is committed to pursuing a model that maintains a universal membership for all Manitoba RNs in a professional nursing association. Our goal is that this membership be at no additional cost to the RN.

We have received funding from both the CNA and CRNM for the exploratory phase of the work which will continue through the summer.

A consultant has been hired on a short term contract to conduct focus groups, interview key stakeholders in the nursing community, collate data provided from the web-based questionnaire and prepare a report that will help define how we might best move forward. This report will be available on our website when it is complete.
The steering committee wants to hear from every RN in Manitoba to learn what our profession thinks about re-establishing a Manitoba RN association. Recognizing that it will be impossible to meet and speak with every registered nurse in Manitoba, we have developed a survey that will be available by noon June 16 at www.mbrnnetwork.com. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire – it shouldn’t take more than a few minutes of your time and please encourage all of your nursing colleagues to do the same. We cannot move forward in this journey without you.

We will launch our website www.mbrnnetwork.com at the CNA biennium. Please be sure to check the Network Connector page and complete the questionnaire. We anticipate that there will be lots of opportunity to volunteer in the future. We have a Facebook group Manitoba RN Network and you can follow us on twitter @MBRNNetwork.

If you are attending CNA, please drop by our display at the exhibit hall. We have developed a MB RN Network fact sheet and a postcard that will be available to pick up. The fact sheet will also be on the website --- as a page and as a .pdf file that can be downloaded and shared for distribution. We hope it will be helpful for you as you talk about the network with your nursing colleagues.

Join the conversation and help make history.