



NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Edition 5
Fall 2022



A message from RNANT/NU and YRNA 2

Canada’s Chief Nursing Officer- Leigh Chapman..... 3

ICN Congress 2023 3

COVID-19 Fall 2022 Vaccine Boosters 3

Highlights from the Yukon.....6

Highlights from the NWT/Nunavut.....9

Professional Conduct Decisions from the NWT/NUNAVUT 10

News from other agencies 11

Connecting with us..... 12



A message from RNANT/NU and YRNA

As we say goodbye to the long days of summer and welcome shorter days, we continue our reflection on the ways in which nursing leadership has become a necessary and important focal point of conversation at the provincial, territorial, and national levels. This conversation is of course underscored by the recent good news announcement of a new federal Chief Nursing Officer ([Dr. Leigh Chapman](#)).

Nursing leadership is not limited to those holding formal leadership roles. It happens across every domain of nursing and in every nursing role.

- Nurses who work in direct care consistently mentor practice excellence, lead patient care through sound clinical judgment, engage in complex problem solving and innovation, and work relationally with patients and families as partners in care.
- Nurse educators incorporate leadership skills and capacities into the nursing curricula across designations and educational levels, cultivating the future and advancing nurses the ability to enact leadership in practice.
- Nurse researchers generate evidence for leadership practices in nursing and lead the development of the nursing discipline in new directions.
- Nurse administrators lead interdisciplinary care teams, developing philosophies of care, directing workflows, implementing systems change, and enacting strategies to retain and recognize care team members.
- Nurse executives lead strategic planning, steward health care system resources and structures, build clinical governance infrastructure, and guide health policy development.
- Nurse lobbyists and organizers advance the nursing workforce, fight for safe work environments, and lead contract development, workforce policy, and labour relations across a multitude of contexts, roles, and organizations.
- Nurse activists and advocates lead social justice movements and bring social and policy issues to public attention from a nursing perspective as part of driving toward a more just and equitable world.²

Indeed, there is no domain of the health care system where nurses cannot lead. Moreover, nurse leaders belong wherever health and social policy decisions are made. It is important to recognize that nursing is not alone in our ability to integrate clinical skills, insight, and judgment into leadership practices. For example, our physician colleagues also bring clinical training and experience to leadership roles. Every person who works in health care shows up every day because they care. Additionally, nurses are not angels or heroes, what nurses have is a unique body of disciplinary knowledge developed over centuries of practice, research, education, and leadership. It is to this unique nursing knowledge that nursing leaders must be encouraged to go to in the context of decision making, understanding that leadership rooted in nursing knowledge is powerful, valuable, and sorely needed.

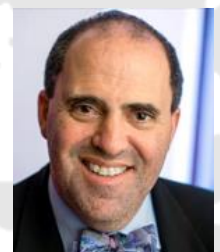
RNANT/NU and YRNA recognize and thank each and every nurse working across Canada's vast and beautiful north for your leadership, each and every day.

Denise Bowen, MN, RN, Executive Director/Registrar,
RNANT/NU

Jerome Marburg, LL.B. MBA, CEO, YRNA



Denise Bowen
Executive Director, RNANT/NU
[Email Denise](#)



Jerome Marburg
CEO, YRNA
[Email Jerome](#)

Canada's Chief Nursing Officer- Leigh Chapman

Both YRNA and RNANT/NU applaud the recent appointment of Dr. Leigh Chapman as Canada's federal Chief Nursing Officer (CNO). Dr. Chapman is a Registered Nurse who received her Masters in Clinical Health Sciences from McMaster University and her Ph.D from the University of Toronto's Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing. Her 20-year nursing career includes leadership in clinical care environments, including her most recent position as Director of Clinical Services with Inner City Health Associates in Toronto.

The current state of the health care system and its health human resource challenges clearly demonstrate the pressing need for the nursing perspective to be at the forefront, as well as at policy and planning tables. The nursing profession needs to remain an integral part of the leadership structure within health care system transformation, even more so in this time of increasing demand and complexity. A federal CNO position serves as a focal point for health systems leadership, drawing together provincial and territorial leaders to ensure coordinated, effective policy and practice expertise today, when it is needed more than ever.

Our organizations celebrate the appointment of Dr. Chapman into this critical role and commend federal leaders for reinstating a CNO role at the national level. On behalf of your colleagues in the North, welcome Dr. Chapman and we look forward to working with you.

ICN Congress 2023

The International Council of Nurses Congress, held every two years as a partnership between the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), brings the world's nurses together for robust discussion and to share best practices, knowledge, and research. In 2023, the Congress will be held in Montreal from July 1-5.

The theme 'Nurses Together: a force for global health', will be an opportunity for Canada to host the world's nurses as a show of unity, solidarity, and influence in working together as a force for global health.

Learn more about:

- [Abstract submissions](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Programme](#)
- [General](#)



COVID-19 Fall 2022 Vaccine Boosters

In the fall of 2022, Canadians can expect to receive updated versions of a COVID-19 vaccine, adapted to better protect against Omicron variants.ⁱ Such adapted vaccines as those produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna have already demonstrated robust protection in clinical trials, and are currently expected to be approved for use by Health Canada and distributed to provinces in time for a September rollout.ⁱⁱ

In 2021, the vast majority of Canadians rolled up their sleeves to receive their first two doses of COVID-19 vaccine in a mass effort to help reduce community transmission, protect their health and the health of their loved ones, and 'flatten the curve' in terms of COVID-19 cases. At that time, two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine offered very good protection against serious illness caused by the virus. However, immunity naturally goes down with time, and viruses such as COVID-19 continue to develop new variants which pose additional risk to our health. As such, it is critical that people continue to receive the

necessary doses of vaccine to give the immune system the 'boost' it needs to maintain a sufficient level of protection against new variants of the virus as they evolve.

As we head into influenza season where other viruses and bacteria will begin to spread, it is essential that Canadians do all they can to support their immune systems and protect against further spread of illness. As such, those who have not yet received their first booster dose are urged to do so as soon as possible in order to stay up to date with their protection.ⁱⁱⁱ As well, receiving a second booster dose in the fall (six months after the first booster) will provide the best, most reliable form of protection for individuals and our communities.



It is important to note that eligibility for a second booster or fourth dose also ranges across the provinces and territories. As of mid-July, the provinces and territories are offering second boosters (fourth doses) as follows:^{iv}

Note that 'booster doses' for the general population are not equivalent to 'third/fourth doses' for those who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed. The terminology 'first booster (third dose)' and 'second booster (fourth dose)' is used in this section for clarity, and different provinces and territories may employ different vaccination guidelines for those who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed.

- **Alberta:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are currently available to the general population aged 70 and over, Indigenous peoples aged 65 and over, and all seniors living in congregate-care settings, regardless of age.
- **Manitoba:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are available to the general population aged 50 and over, Indigenous peoples 30 and over, residents in personal care homes and seniors in congregate living settings of any age, and individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised between the ages of 18 and 49.
- **New Brunswick:** All residents aged 18 and over are eligible to receive their second booster (fourth dose) five months after their first booster (third dose) as of July 12.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are available to anyone aged 50 and over, Indigenous peoples aged 18 and over, or those who live in remote or isolated Indigenous communities aged 18 and over as of July 20.
- **Northwest Territories:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are available to those aged 50 and over and those aged 12 and over who are immunocompromised, at least six months after the first booster (third dose).



- **Nova Scotia:** Those aged 50 and over are eligible to receive second boosters (fourth doses) 168 days after receiving their first booster (third dose), and residents in long-term care and congregate living settings, Indigenous peoples over the age of 55, and immunocompromised individuals aged 50 and over may receive their second booster 120 days after the first.
- **Nunavut:** Individuals aged 18 and over are currently eligible to receive their second booster (fourth dose) if it has been 4½ months since their first booster (third dose). Some age groups are prioritized in certain areas.
- **Ontario:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are available to all adults between the ages of 18 and 59 who had their first booster (third dose) at least five months prior or who were infected with COVID-19 three months prior.
- **Prince Edward Island:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are currently available to all residents aged 12 and over.
- **Quebec:** All residents aged 18 and over are currently eligible to receive their second booster (fourth dose). Those aged 60 and over and with underlying medical conditions are 'prioritized', but any adults may receive their second booster at this time.
- **Saskatchewan:** Second boosters (fourth doses) are available to all residents aged 50 and over, four months after their first booster (third dose).
- **Yukon:** In early July, Yukon announced that all residents 18 and over are eligible to receive their second booster (fourth dose) six months after their first booster (third dose) as of July 13.

Epidemiologists consistently agree that the original two- dose vaccination series is no longer sufficient for protection, and that at least three doses are necessary as a foundation for protection, with additional boosters to maintain protection thereafter.^v

As leaders in public health, infection prevention and control, and as the largest group of immunizers in Canada, nurses know the importance of receiving necessary vaccinations in order to maintain a sufficient level of protection against serious illness and to prevent severe health outcomes such as hospitalization and death. Nurses know that immunity decreases with time, and especially with new variants of the virus in circulation, receiving additional 'booster' doses is critical. As epidemiology supports, receiving the first three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine is urgently important. While individuals may decide whether to receive their second booster now or wait until fall 2022, nurses know that ensuring people remain up to date with their vaccine series is imperative in maintaining adequate protection against COVID-19. As many nurses work directly with patients, clients, and communities, nurses are ideally positioned to help educate and inform on the importance of regular immunizations and other public health measures, and to share evidence-informed information from reliable sources.

i Public Health Agency of Canada. 'National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Meetings.' Updated 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/meetings.html>;

ii Ibid.

iii Ibid.

iv Benchetrit, Jenna. CBC News. 'Who is eligible for a 4th COVID-19 vaccine dose? A province-by-province breakdown.' July 13, 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/fourth-dose-eligibility-1.6518082>.

v Public Health Agency of Canada. 'National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Meetings.' Updated 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/meetings.html>;

Adapted with permission from Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YUKON

Highlights from the Yukon

Continuing Competency Program

Continuing Nurse Education Fund

Duty to Report

Nurses are ranked consistently as the most trusted of health professionals in several opinion polls conducted across North America. Part of this trust is based on nurses' positional ethical and legal responsibilities as set out in legislation, practice standards and codes of ethics. Once such responsibility is the 'duty to report'. This means that nurses have an ethical and legal responsibility to report the practice of any other health professional if it is incompetent, impaired or unethical and poses a danger to the public.

In the Yukon, under the [Registered Nurses Professions Act](#), employers who terminate or restrict the duties of either RNs or NPs must report to the registrar these changes if the RN or NP:

- Is unfit to practice due to physical or mental disorder;
- If the actions of the RN or NP constitute misconduct, incompetence or incapacity;
- If the RN or NP poses a danger to people in their care.

Additionally, the Act stipulates that if the above were not yet reported prior to the RN or NP resigning their employment, the employer is still obligated to notify the registrar of the offences.

All reports are sent to the complaints committee and no negative action will be undertaken against a complainant who makes a report in good faith. If you are considering a complaint, this [Complaint Evaluation Toolkit](#) is a helpful resource.

Please feel free to direct questions to either [Jerome Marburg, CEO](#) or [Paul Banks, Registrar](#).

Telus Health MyCare™ - Pilot Program

YRNA is pleased to provide registrants access to the Telus Health MyCare™ service. A subscription fee for all practicing Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses to access the service has been paid through October 2022. We have understood that future funding for this initiative may be in doubt beyond October 2022, but YRNA will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to ensure continuation of this program.

Telus Health MyCare™ is

- Free to use for YRNA registrants
- Unlimited (access services as often as needed)
- A real-time virtual connection with mental health providers, physicians, licensed counsellors, and life coaches to enhance your physical and mental health.
- Secure (all data is safely stored on Canadian servers)

Telus Health MyCare™ provides services in mental health, physical health and with nutrition. Simply download the app, enter a special code, and start using the service from the privacy of your own home.

To learn more and to obtain the code, please email us admin@yrna.ca.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YUKON



Call for Interest - Board Members

Are you or someone you know looking for a unique way to promote public safety and guide the advancement of regulation in the Yukon? Consider nominating yourself or your colleague for a position on YRNA's Board!

The duties of the Board are outlined in more detail in section 7 of the [YRNA Bylaws](#). You can also find more information on our [Governance](#) page.

YRNA's Board of Directors is responsible for carrying out the following tasks:

- Establish the goals, objectives, and policies of the Association;
- Approve the appropriation, investment, and disbursement of the funds of the Association, including the annual budget;
- Prepare and submit to each annual meeting of the Association a financial statement of the operations of the Association for the past year;
- Appoint the CEO of the Association;
- Appoint the Registrar;
- Generally direct and conduct the business and affairs of the Association;
- Perform all duties as set out in the Act, Bylaws, and Regulations.

For the 2023 AGM, YRNA is seeking all interested registrants and members of the public to put forward their name for a position on the Board.

YRNA is searching for Board members that can dedicate time to understand their role and responsibilities, lead collaboratively, engage with other members of the Board and the community at large, provide strategic support, and commit to their own learning and development. YRNA invites everyone to apply, especially those that have experience in the following areas:

- Knowledge in regulatory affairs or governance experience
- Broad knowledge of the Yukon's health care system
- Knowledge in First Nations and Indigenous heritage and culture
- Persons with lived experience

If you are interested in a Board position, or know someone who is, please reach out to us! You can reach us at admin@yrna.ca or 867-667-4062 ext. 0.

Call for Interest – Nominations Committee

Do you have a keen eye for recognizing talent in people? Are you an active member of your local community? If so, you may be a good fit for YRNA's Nominations Committee

YRNA's nominations committee is responsible for the recruitment of new Board Members.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YUKON



Their responsibilities are as follows:

- Utilize their connections to find new, qualified Board members;
- Vet nominations to YRNA's Board against YRNA's skills competency matrix;
- Approve those nominations that meet YRNA's criteria and appoint them as potential Board Members, pending election by YRNA's registrants.

If you are a YRNA registrant who is interested in such a position, please reach out to us! You can reach us at admin@yrna.ca or 867-667-4062 ext. 0

Mandatory Education Requirement for Continued Registration

Yukon First Nations 101 Beginning April 1, 2022, YRNA will begin phasing in Yukon University's "[Yukon First Nations 101](#)" course as a mandatory requirement for continued registration. This course aims to educate on the history of Yukon First Nations, provide a greater understanding of cultural values, and offer tools for respectful communication.

- Courses are offered either [in person, over Zoom](#) or via [self-paced online training](#). Questions can be directed to registrations@yukonu.ca or by phone at 867-668-8710.
- All current YRNA registrants must provide proof of completion by March 1, 2023 by emailing a copy of your completion certificate to admin@yrna.ca.
- Self-identified registrants are exempt. Please contact us at admin@yrna.ca for questions about this.
- Note, as of April 1, 2022, all new YRNA registrants must have the course completed prior to registration.

Yukon University SPOR Healthcare Worker Burnout Project

Yukon University is currently working on SPOR's healthcare worker burnout project and are seeking feedback via a survey. The survey, which should take about five minutes to complete, measures burnout across three categories: personal, work, and client related. Note, for the purpose of the survey, the term "client" refers to individuals who are within your scope of practice.

After completing the survey, you will have the option to be contacted for in-person interviews. These interviews are a great opportunity to share perspectives on health work during the pandemic. This knowledge will help Yukon University inform managers and policymakers on the need to mitigate work-related stress. Interview participants will be provided a small honorarium.

[Take the survey.](#)

If you have trouble accessing the survey, please contact Mark Christopher via email at mchristopher@yukonu.ca or by phone at (519) 574-8228.

Quality Assurance Education Fund

Registrants can apply through YRNA for funding for continuing education through the Quality Assurance Education Fund provided by Yukon Health & Social services. These funds support eligible Yukon RNs/NPs who wish to pursue continuing education. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NWT/NUNAVUT

Highlights from the NWT/Nunavut

Professional Practice

AGM 2022

- **Save the date!** The 2022 virtual AGM which will be held on **October 22, 2022**. Check out our [information page](#).
- Call for Resolutions: RNANT/NU members are invited to submit resolution proposals by **12:00pm, Friday October 14, 2022**.
 - Resolution forms are available online [here](#).
 - If you have questions regarding the resolutions process, contact Denise Bowen, Executive Director at (867) 873-2745 ext. 23 or by email at ed@rnantnu.ca.



Save the Date!
2022 Virtual Annual
General Meeting
October 22, 2022
1:00PM – 4:00PM MST

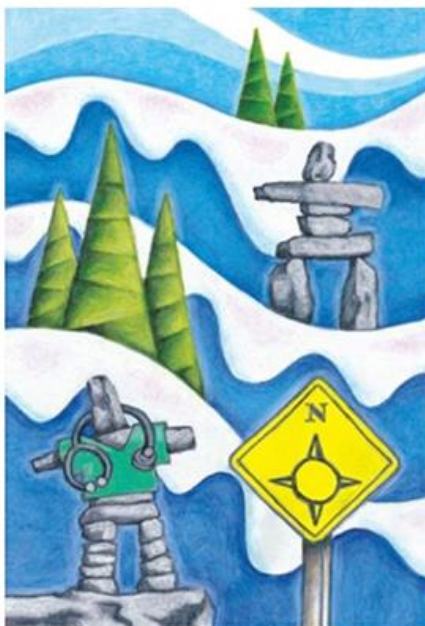
Renewal 2023

- Just a reminder renewal for the 2023 registration year will open on **October 17, 2022**. Please watch [our website](#) for more information. Check out our [renewal FAQs](#).

CPD Fall 2022 Courses

The Centre for Professional Development, Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, provides a variety of innovative programs, courses, and institutes to advance your skills and enhance your knowledge.

Course information can be found [here](#).



Become A Volunteer!

Are you interested in volunteering with the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANT/NU)?

The Board of Directors has the following vacancies:

- President-Elect
- NT South Representative
- NU Vice President
- NU Public Representative
- NT Public Representative

Nominations can be forwarded to execast@rnantnu.ca

Questions can be sent to ed@rnantnu.ca

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT DECISIONS FROM THE NWT/NUNAVUT



Professional Conduct Decisions from the NWT/NUNAVUT

RNANT/NU publishes professional conduct decisions to meet our mandate of public protection, to demonstrate openness and transparency to the public about professional conduct and to educate our members on what is unprofessional and unethical conduct. The Board of Directors reviewed jurisdictional best practices in Canada and amended Policy PCR1: Publication of Professional Conduct Decisions to include the publication of the registration number and name of the member in the newsletter.

RNANT/NU Member Michael Wolfe

On June 22, 2022, the Chairperson of the Professional Conduct Committee approved a settlement agreement between RNANT/NU and the Member. The Member abandoned a confirmed contract and position as a Community Health Nurse in a Nunavut community, leaving the health centre short staffed. The Member entered Alternate Dispute Resolution. The Member completed the Canadian Nurses Association's online Code of Ethics course modules.

RNANT/NU Member Rachiel Chirara

On May 16, 2022, the Chairperson of the Professional Conduct Committee approved a settlement agreement between RNANT/NU and the Member. The Member abandoned an indeterminate position as a Community Health Nurse in a Nunavut community, leaving the health centre short staffed. The Member entered Alternate Dispute Resolution. The Member completed the Canadian Nurses Association's online Code of Ethics course modules.

RNANT/NU Member Theresa Paul Lebrun

On June 22, 2022, the Chairperson of the Professional Conduct Committee approved a settlement agreement between RNANT/NU and the Member. The Member posted via Face Book, multiple statements regarding a member of the public's statements regarding COVID 19 and city facilities. The posts were described as being personal, aggressive, and attacking in nature and affected the complainant's employment causing mental anguish and stress. The Member refused to let a nursing colleague accompany her patient, a resident of the women's shelter, into the emergency room at Stanton Territorial Hospital. The nursing colleague was on duty in the Outreach program, was wearing and aware of the need for PPE, had a therapeutic relationship with the patient who did not have any family in the city for support and reassurance. The Member will complete the International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS) online course *Righting a Wrong – Ethics and Professionalism in Nursing*.

RNANT/NU Member Kyla McConnell

On August 24, 2022, the Chairperson of the Professional Conduct Committee approved a settlement agreement between RNANT/NU and the Member. The Member, on more than one occasion, forged the supervisor's signature for approval of overtime and supplemental pay. The Member breached the Controlled Substances Act by signing out narcotics, on more than one occasion, in patient's names without supporting documentation on the patient's medical record that the narcotics were ordered or administered to the patients. The Member acknowledges that she is no longer a registered member of the Registered Nurses Association for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and agrees not to make application for reinstatement of her certificate of registration to practice nursing in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

News from other agencies

- Dr. Sylvain Brousseau, President of the Canadian Nurses Association, recently wrote a message on Canada's current health care crisis. "For over two years, nurses and health-care providers have shouldered the enormous burden of the pandemic. Excessive workloads, understaffing and significant overtime is resulting in chronic burnout which has pushed nurses and health-care workers past the breaking point. This is happening in all domains of nursing practice, including nursing leadership" [Read the full message here.](#)
- Read more about the [Monkeypox Outbreak](#) from our colleagues at Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC.
- The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) has a wealth of resources on their website including:
 - [Upcoming events](#)
 - [Policy and Advocacy Work](#)
 - [General news and information](#)
 - [And more!](#)If you have not yet joined CNA, [learn more about how to do so.](#)
- The Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS) not only provides comprehensive liability protection for nurses, but also offers a wealth of resources, educational opportunities and materials that benefit nurses. Check out [their website](#) for more information.
- The Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH) is offering free, asynchronous, accredited eLearning modules on Cannabis and Older Adults. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Connecting with us

We want to hear from you! Please reach out at any time if you have questions, concerns or if you'd like to see us feature a specific story in our next newsletter.



Email us: execast@mantnu.ca

Visit the website

[Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut](https://www.mantnu.ca)



Email us: admin@yrna.ca

Visit the website

[Yukon Registered Nurses Association](https://www.yrna.ca)

