

# Nursing

Submitted by *Chrissy Lefkimmiatis*  
(*Vice-President, Director Inter/Intra Professional Education & Research*  
*Canadian Nursing Students' Association*)



## What is Nursing?

**Nursing** encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. (As defined by the International Council of Nurses)

## What do nurses do?

Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles. (As defined by the International Council of Nurses)

## Where do Registered Nurses, Licensed/Registered Practical Nurses & Registered Psychiatric Nurses work?

Nurses work in hospitals and acute care settings, public health units, retirement communities, nursing homes, clinics, offices, mental health facilities, group homes, homecare, occupational health and safety, pharmaceutical companies, in government, in the education sector, administration and management, the Canadian Armed Forces, remote/rural areas, research areas, and many other health and non-health care sectors.

## Education:

Registered Nurses are educated as either diploma entry into practice or degree entry into practice Nation-wide. Provincial policies differ, as some provinces (such as Ontario, for example) have phased out diploma education and offer only Baccalaureate entry into practice. This is an initiative that the government has mandated Canada-wide. Licensed/Registered Practice Nurses are educated in a diploma program. Registered Psychiatric Nurses are educated as baccalaureate entry into practice, and only exist in Western provinces.

## Licensure:

Nursing is a self-regulated profession. The Regulating Body for Nurses will depend on the province in which licensure is sought.

## What is the role of the CNSA?

For over thirty years, CNSA has represented the interests of nursing students to federal, provincial and international governments and other nursing and health care organizations. The CNSA represents all classes of undergraduate nursing students in Registered Nursing, Registered/Licensed Practice Nursing, and Registered Psychiatric Nursing programs. CNSA holds annual national and regional conferences and offers lively discussion forums through the web site ([www.cnsa.ca](http://www.cnsa.ca)). The CNSA, with over 22,000 members, is an affiliate member of the Canadian Nurses Association and Practical Nurses Canada as well as an associate member of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions. The CNSA has a reciprocal relationship with Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing and is a co-chair of the New Health Professionals Network.

## CNSA is guided by the following underlying principles and objectives:

- Provide a communication link among nursing students across Canada, recognizing the specific language needs of our bilingual country.
- Act as the official voice of nursing students.
- Provide a medium through which members can express their opinions on nursing issues.
- Encourage participation in professional and liberal education.
- Provide a liaison with other organizations concerned with nursing.
- Increase the awareness of both the existence of and the need for nursing research