

New Council Officers



THE STANDARD OF CARE.

For Immediate Release

(Wednesday, June 27, 2007) — The Council of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), the regulatory body for Ontario's 144,000 nurses, recently elected its officers for 2007-2008.

CNO's 39-member Council consists of elected Registered Nurses (RNs) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs), as well as government-appointed public members. As the governing body of the College, Council establishes the strategic direction for nursing self-regulation and sets regulatory policy.

CNO's Council elected the following officers at its June 8th meeting in Toronto:

- Mary Ann Murray, RN, President
- Dawn Norling, RPN, Vice-President
- Shirley Kennedy, RN, Vice-President

Ms. Murray, whose clinical practice is in palliative care, is working on her PhD in nursing at the University of Ottawa. Ms. Kennedy works in a supervisory capacity and provides professional guidance and support to correctional-facility nurses at Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre. Ms. Norling is a staff nurse at Sault Area Hospital.

"Council's role is to bring knowledge, skills and leadership to the self-regulation of the nursing profession," says Ms. Murray. "Council will be working with the membership and stakeholders to bring about the best outcomes for clients and their families."

A major focus for the College this coming year will be implementing changes to meet the requirements of the recently passed *Health System Improvements Act* (Bill 171). "A portion of self-regulation is keeping current with legislation," says Ms. Norling. "With the recent passage of Bill 171, the College will be working to educate its membership on the impact of these regulatory changes."

"I am thrilled to have a leadership role going into this transition phase," says Ms. Kennedy. "With its focus on quality assurance; increased public access to information; improved processes around reports, complaints and inquiries; the *Health System Improvements Act* provides for better public protection."

"The College is carefully reviewing the legislation and developing its action plans," says Ms. Murray. "It's an exciting time. We are moving forward with changes that will make the health care system more responsive to the needs of the public by strengthening and supporting health professionals."

The mission of the College of Nurses of Ontario is to protect the public's right to quality nursing services by providing leadership to the nursing profession in self-regulation. Council provides the regulatory direction that ensures Ontario nurses are qualified to provide safe, ethical and effective care. Information about Council members will appear in the Fall issue of *The Standard*, CNO's quarterly membership magazine, and on CNO's website, at www.cno.org.

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