

**March 1, 2012**

## **Registered Nurse Regulators Incorporate at National Level**

**Ottawa** – The country’s 12 provincial/territorial registered nurse regulatory bodies are pleased to announce that they have been incorporated as the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRNR).

“This is a historic move forward,” says Laurel Brunke, Registrar/Chief Executive Officer, College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. “We now have a formal mechanism by which we can work together to protect the public interest of Canadians by continuing to advance excellence in nursing regulation from coast to coast to coast.”

The incorporation of the CCRNR will enable the regulators to more effectively monitor and exchange information on topics such as regulatory trends, best practices, policy and legislation. It will also help them develop and promote harmonized approaches to nursing regulation, and undertake projects among themselves and with other national and or global organizations.

“Profession-led regulation is a privilege built on the premise of public protection,” says Brunke. “This means that registered nurses have the knowledge and expertise to regulate themselves as well as their profession. It also recognizes that public safety is the principal interest of the regulatory bodies.”

To protect the public interest, the provincial/territorial RN regulators establish and ensure the requirements for entering the nursing profession and obtaining a licence to practise, as well as the standards for the practice of registered nurses and their ongoing competence. For instance, within their legislated mandate, the regulators are legally accountable to ensure that Canadian nursing graduates have the required knowledge, skills and abilities (competencies) to practise safely and ethically before they are licensed. To measure these competencies, the regulators are responsible for selecting and administering a valid, psychometrically sound, and legally defensible entry exam.

Nursing regulation was first introduced in Canada in 1909 and since then, every province/territory has granted the privilege of profession-led regulation for registered nurses within their jurisdiction. This means that each province/territory has legislation governing the practice of registered nurses but authorizes registered nurses and their regulatory bodies to enact this legislation in the public interest.

Members of the CCRNR include the:

- Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Association of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island
- College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia
- Nurses Association of New Brunswick
- Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec
- College of Nurses of Ontario

- College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba
- Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association
- College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta
- College of Registered Nurses of BC
- Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut
- Yukon Registered Nurses Association

Collectively, the members of the CCRNR regulate the practice of the country's close to 270,000 registered nurses including 2,500 nurse practitioners.

**For more information about CCRNR:**

[info@ccnr.ca](mailto:info@ccnr.ca)

Tel: 613.447.5253