

Statistics Show More Nurses Working in Ontario



COLLEGE OF NURSES
OF ONTARIO
ORDRE DES INFIRMIÈRES
ET INFIRMIERS DE L'ONTARIO

THE STANDARD OF CARE.

The number of nurses employed in Ontario has reached a five-year high, according to new statistics released by the College of Nurses of Ontario (“the College”). Since 2010, the College has seen over seven percent growth in the number of nurses working in Ontario, with each of the past five years showing progressive increases.

The number comes from the just-released *Membership Statistics Highlights Report* at <http://www.cno.org/statisticalreports>, its data based on information Ontario’s nurses provided when renewing their College memberships for 2014.

“Last year, nurses were asked some new questions about their practice, which gave us a clearer picture of Ontario’s nursing labour supply,” explains Brent Knowles, the College’s Manager, Information Management. “The new *Highlights Report* is an example of how the College is enhancing the transparency and accuracy of its statistical reporting. The changes made to the renewal process are in keeping with the College’s role in ensuring that all nurses practising in Ontario are competent.”

For example, the College established a Non-Practising Class for nurses who want to remain members of the College, but are not in active nursing practice. Also, when renewing, nurses are now required to confirm that they have practised nursing in Ontario within the last three years. Nurses who did not practise were given the option to join the Non-Practising Class, resign their College membership, or do nothing and have their membership revoked. Approximately 5,370 nurses are currently in the Non-Practising Class.

“The nurses who joined the Non-Practising Class were previously counted among the general practising membership,” explains Knowles. “Now, their membership in the Non-Practising Class more accurately reflects their practice status.”

The 2014 statistics also show a minor drop—less than one percent—in the number of nurses employed full-time in the province; however, other data suggests that most nurses are working the number of hours they prefer. “When we asked nurses what their preferred working status would be—full-time, part-time or casual—the majority of nurses indicated that their current and preferred working statuses are the same,” says Knowles. “In other words, the majority of nurses employed part-time told us that they prefer working part-time.”

The College of Nurses of Ontario is the regulator of the province’s 160,000 nurses and Ontario’s leading source of nursing-related data. More information about the College’s public protection mandate can be found at www.cno.org/en/what-is-cno/

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