

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 08, 2009

**National Nursing Week, May 11 – 17, 2009**  
***Nurses: Working Together For Your Health***

**EDMONTON** – As the largest group of health professionals, nurses are essential to all aspects of the health-care system – from direct patient care to coordination of care to management at all levels. Nurses impact the life of communities in every imaginable situation, providing solutions and touching the human heart. National Nursing Week, May 11-17, provides an opportunity to help the public understand and appreciate the contributions that the nursing professions make in improving the health of Albertans.

This year, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA), the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) and the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta (CRPNA) have joined together to collectively celebrate nursing with the theme “Nurses: Working Together for Your Health.”

The health-care system requires nursing professions to work collaboratively to achieve best possible patient outcomes. In some care situations, all members of the nursing team possess the necessary knowledge, skills and judgment to provide clients and their families with safe, competent, ethical care. In other situations, the knowledge, skills and judgment required may be unique to one provider.

In Alberta, there are 32,000 RNs, 7,500 LPNs and 1,200 RPNs working together in today’s ever-changing health care environment. Health care providers must work together to increase the system’s ability to deliver safe and effective care that is accessible and cost-effective. This means that everyone involved must be knowledgeable about the needs of people need care, the care setting , and the roles and responsibilities of each nurse.

**About National Nursing Week**

In 1971, the International Council of Nurses designated May 12 (Florence Nightingale’s birthday) as International Nurses Day. In 1985, in recognition of the dedication and achievements of the nursing profession, the federal minister of health proclaimed the second week of May as National Nursing Week in Canada. Nurses throughout the province celebrate National Nursing Week with a variety of events ranging from dinners and educational speakers to special treats at coffee breaks.

**About The Colleges**

The three professional nursing regulatory bodies, CARNA, CLPNA, and CRPNA, are accountable to the public for the provision of safe, ethical, competent nursing care by their respective members through authority granted in provincial legislation. This includes initial and ongoing registration, continuing competence, practice support, and discipline. Each regulatory body is responsible for the development of codes of ethics, standards of practice, and the approval of nursing education programs. As well, each regulatory body has the authority to define the scope of practice of their respective members.

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