

March 4, 2016

### **An open letter to IPAC Canada members who are Nurses.**

#### **Are you a member of the Canadian Nurses Association (C.N.A.)?**

If you are, we congratulate you and strongly encourage you to maintain your membership. If you are not, we encourage you to join today, either through your territorial college or association or directly at <https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/membership/join-cna>.

#### **Why be a C.N.A. member?**

IPAC Canada has been in discussion with the Canadian Nurses Association for the past 10 years, striving to achieve recognition of Infection Prevention and Control as a Nursing Specialty and to have Certification in Infection Control (CIC®) through the Certification Board of Infection Control recognized as a Canadian Nursing certification.

Recently, we have made significant progress. IPAC Canada is now a recognized and valued member of the Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties (CNNS) with two nursing designates (Madeleine Ashcroft and Vi Burton) and our Executive Director Gerry Hansen participating in meetings, working groups, and consultations to inform C.N.A. positions on infection prevention and control issues.

Currently, our draft core competencies for ICPs and the CBIC exam information are being considered by the C.N.A. Board as support for our requests and we are optimistic of recognition of Infection Prevention and Control this coming spring.

In order to maintain our position on the CNNS and our direct influence with C.N.A., we require a minimum of 50% of our members to be nurses, this percentage must occur in at least four provinces, and more than 50% of these members are C.N.A. members. Currently, our C.N.A. nursing membership qualification is at 65%. Several provincial nursing associations have changed policy and no longer provide automatic C.N.A. membership to their nurses. These policies jeopardize IPAC Canada effectiveness at the C.N.A. level.

#### **You will also benefit...**

- As the national professional nursing association, C.N.A. influences healthcare decisions that impact your practice, public policy, and public awareness of your essential role.
- C.N.A. offers professional development opportunities specifically for nurses and a wealth of knowledge resources.
- Check out the benefits webpage at <https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/membership/benefits-of-cna-membership> which includes journals, online resources, education and clinical courses; and third party savings on insurance, mortgages, CAA, travel, clothing, phones and more.

**If you are already a C.N.A. member –**

Check off 'C.N.A. member' on your IPAC Canada membership renewal form. If you have renewed, and are unsure if you have indicated same, please confirm this with [admin@ipac-canada.org](mailto:admin@ipac-canada.org). In keeping our nursing percentage high and members engaged, we can continue to have a strong voice at the C.N.A. table around the infection prevention and control issues that concern our members.

If you have questions about our C.N.A. initiative, please contact [executivedirector@ipac-canada.org](mailto:executivedirector@ipac-canada.org).

With many thanks,



Suzanne Rhodenizer Rose RN BScN MHS CIC  
President