



## Canadian Nursing Students' Association Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada

### Resolution Statement

#### Canadian Nursing Students' Association Francophone Name Change

**Submitted:** December 7th, 2018

**Submitted to:** CNSA Board of Directors

**Submitted By:** Ashley Pelletier-Simard, Director of Bilingualism and Translation, Dalhousie University;  
Latitia Pelley-George, Atlantic Regional Director, Dalhousie University

#### Background

The Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) and its title have evolved since its creation. Students originally organized under a national association in 1971 entitled Canadian University Nursing Student's Association (CUNSA) (Therrien, 1992). Since 1971, the organization has helped strengthen communications between nursing students across Canada as well as providing a voice for students within other nursing organizations.

In 1988, CUNSA voted to change their official title to the Canadian Nursing Students' Association as a better reflection of the expansion of their membership to diploma nursing students (Therrien, 1992). The French translation of CNSA official title became L'Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada (AEIC).

Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) was originally named the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, in French, L'Association Canadienne Nationale des Infirmières Diplômées, but changed its name to the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) in 1924. Even at a time where male nurses comprised less than 2% of all nurses, CNA still valued the contributions they brought to the profession and incorporated them in their French title L'Association des Infirmières et Infirmiers du Canada (AIIC) all while acknowledging female nurses before male nurses as a nod to the majority of nurses being women (CNA, n.d., D'Antonio & Whelan, 2009).

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) also pay equal homage to female and male nurses since its foundation in 1981 with their French monomer La Fédération Canadienne des Syndicats d'Infirmières et Infirmiers (CFNU, n.d.).

Multiple nursing organizations emphasize both female and male nurses in their titles. L'Association des Infirmières et Infirmiers de l'Ontario, l'Ordre des Infirmières et Infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ) and Syndicat des Infirmières et Infirmiers du Nouveau Brunswick (SIINB) to name a few. (Ontario Nurse Association, n.d.; OIIQ, n.d.; SIINB, n.d.). With nearly 10% of all nurses in Canada being male nurses, they should be acknowledged in a respectful and equal manner in CNSA's francophone title just as they are in so many other nursing organizations. (Statistics Canada, 2003).

CNSA represents nearly 30,000 students in over 50 nursing schools in Canada (CNSA, n.d.). Some of the chapter schools bestow on their students' Bachelors of Science in Nursing, while other schools grant Bachelors of nursing or diplomas in nursing. As an inclusive organisation, CNSA's francophone title should not in avertedly give preference to those students who are enrolled in institutions that offer science programs.

CNSA also made history in 2018 by creating an ad-hoc position on the board of directors to create a better representation of practical nurses and increase their involvement in the organization (CNSA, 2018).

1145 Hunt Club Rd, Suite 450

Ottawa, ON K1V 0Y3

613-235-3150 ext 32

<http://www.cnsa.ca>

<http://www.aeic.ca>



CNSA | AEIC

## Canadian Nursing Students' Association Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada

Creating space for practical students and acknowledging their achievements and contributions equally will enhance the association as a whole. They should be represented equally within CNSA's francophone title to strengthen this relationship.

### **Links to Canadian Nursing Students' Association Mandate and Current Position on the Issue**

While CNSA does not currently have a position statement on the addressed issue, the association should consider its current mandate and core values to facilitate a positive stance in changing its official French name to represent its members better. CNSA seeks to strengthen linkages and create new partnerships with student nurses. Creating a more comprehensive francophone name would generate a sense of acknowledgement and respect for the variety of students that are members of CNSA. Advancing innovation and social justice in the nursing curriculum and profession must start at the core of the organization by respecting its members and their identities - the formation of a francophone name that represents male and female nursing students in Canada but is also inclusive to the variety of degrees and diplomas achieved by its student members. This is of the utmost importance in creating a strong foundation. It is imperative that the name does not reflect nursing science but more so nursing in general.

### **The Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the association's francophone name should be equally inclusive to male and female nursing students,

**WHEREAS**, the association's francophone name should reflect nursing education in general and not specifically to nursing science,

**WHEREAS**, students achieve various certifications,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Students' Nursing Association be changed to L'Association des Étudiantes et Étudiants en soins Infirmiers du Canada (AEESI).

### **Relation to Canadian Nursing School Curriculum**

Certain chapter schools such as Dalhousie University and St. Francis Xavier University offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to their graduating students. Other chapter schools such as McGill University and University of New Brunswick grant Bachelor of Nursing to their graduates. Students graduating from practical programs receive diplomas in nursing. It is therefore essential to respect the variety of certifications offered to the student members of the association by not confining the name to nursing sciences.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, by changing CNSA's title to L'Association des Étudiantes et Étudiants en Soins Infirmiers du Canada the organization will foster an equally supportive environment for male and female nurses as well as demonstrate respect and appreciation for the wide variety of diplomas and degrees its student members achieve.

1145 Hunt Club Rd, Suite 450

Ottawa, ON K1V 0Y3

613-235-3150 ext 32

<http://www.cnsa.ca>

<http://www.aeic.ca>



**Canadian Nursing Students' Association**  
**Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada**

**References**

Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (n.d.). Our Story. Retrieved from:

<https://nursesunions.ca/about/ourstory/>

Canadian Nurses Association (n.d.). History. Retrieved from: <https://www.cna-aiic.ca/en/about-us/history>

Canadian Nursing Students' Association. (n.d.). About us. Retrieved from:

<http://cnsa.ca/about-us/>

Canadian Nursing Student's Association. (2018). Minutes of the August Board of Directors Meeting.

D'Antonio, P. & Whelan, J.C. (2009). Counting nurses: the power of historical census data. *Journal of clinical nursing*, 18(19), 2717-24.

Ontario Nurse's Association. (n.d.). Vision, Mission and History. Retrieved from:

<https://www.ona.org/about-ona/our-vision-mission-and-history/>

Ordres des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec. (n.d.). Qui sommes nous?. Retrieved from:

<https://www.oiiq.org/en/l-ordre/qui-sommes-nous->

Therrien, L. (1992). CUNSA & CNSA: A Beginning History. Retrieved from:

<http://cnsa.ca/about-us/cunsa-cnsa-a-beginning-history/>

Statistics Canada. (2003). Health care professionals. Retrieved from:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-001-x/01203/6699-eng.html>

Syndicat des infirmières et infirmiers du Nouveau-Brunswick. (n.d.). A propos du SIINB.

Retrieved from: <https://www.nbnu.ca/francais/a-propos-du-siinb/>

1145 Hunt Club Rd, Suite 450  
Ottawa, ON K1V 0Y3  
613-235-3150 ext 32

<http://www.cnsa.ca>

<http://www.aeic.ca>



**Canadian Nursing Students' Association**  
**Association des étudiant(e)s infirmier(ère)s du Canada**

1145 Hunt Club Rd, Suite 450  
Ottawa, ON K1V 0Y3  
613-235-3150 ext 32  
<http://www.cnsa.ca>      <http://www.aeic.ca>



