

Spring 2016

2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM): Call for Nominations & Resolutions

Inside This Issue

--Contributed by Ranbir Atwal, NP, FHA.

1. 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM): Call for Nominations & Resolutions
2. BCNPA 2016 Conference: Program Line Up
3. Introducing Your Newsletter Editorial Team
4. Legislative & Regulatory Updates
5. MOH Update
6. BCNPA Committee Updates
7. Partner Updates
8. Other Updates

The BCNPA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held once yearly as a part of the larger annual BCNPA Conference. The AGM is a requirement of our bylaws and is open to all BCNPA members.

When: June 3 from 1530-1830

Where: Delta Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre
1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Nominations for Board Positions Open April 2, 2016

The nomination process for the below Board positions opens April 2, 2016:

- President Elect (1-year term).
- Secretary (2-year term).
- Regional Director – Fraser Health Region (2-year term).
- Regional Director – Vancouver Island Region (2-year term).
- NP Student Representative (1-year term).

The nominations process closes May 13, 2016.

All nominees must be active BCNPA members and CRNBC registrants.

The Board invites potential candidates to “shadow” a Board meeting/teleconference, if interested. This opportunity will give nominees an understanding of how the Board operates, and the kind of business this team conducts.

If interested, please contact BCNPA at info@bcnpa.org or through your Regional Director to arrange your participation in the “shadowing” process.

[Learn more on how to nominate a candidate.](#)

Follow BCNPA



[“Like” us on
Facebook!](#)

Submit your Resolutions Starting April 2, 2016

Although best submitted well in advance, resolutions may also be presented in person at the AGM as part of the agenda.

[Learn more on how to submit a resolution.](#)

Voting & Appointing a Proxy

BCNPA members in good standing have the opportunity to vote for board nominees and proposed resolutions. (Sorry: Student and associate members do not have voting rights.)

Unable to make it in person but would like to vote? Appoint a proxy. Complete the [Proxy Form \(PDF\)](#) in full, and submit it to the Board to have it verified prior to the AGM.

As per BCNPA's bylaws, the election of officers will occur in advance by of the AGM by May 20, 2016. If for whatever reason the advanced election of officers fail, voting will take place at the AGM.

For more on the voting process: <https://bcnpa.org/events/agm/voting/>

Typical Business at the BCNPA AGM

- Reviewing and voting on resolutions submitted in advance.
- Reviewing business activities of the past membership cycle.
- Addressing questions and comments from members.
- Processing membership purchases and renewals.

2016 Conference: Program Line-Up

--Contributed by Annaliese Hasler, NP, VCH; 2016 Conference Committee Member.



Opportunities: Healthcare Leadership in Action is the theme for the 2016 BCNPA Conference.

This year, we take the conference to BC's interior.

Key AGM Dates:

Call for nominations and resolutions open:
April 2, 2016.

Deadline for submitting nominations:
May 13, 2016

Deadline for submitting e-ballots to vote for new Board members:
May 20, 2016

Deadline for submitting resolutions:
June 3, 2016 at the AGM

Deadline for appointing a proxy:
June 3, 2016 in person at the AGM. (Completed form required.)

BCNPA AGM: June 3, 2016

The Conference is the only stand-alone NP-focused event in BC that provides an exclusive opportunity to meet with a variety of NPs from across the province.

This year's conference takes place in Kelowna, BC at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre, which is nestled on the shores of Lake Okanagan.

The conference will run from June 3-5 inclusive.

Program for June 3: Workshops and BCNPA AGM

Workshops

June 3 begins with a variety of skill building workshops:

- IUD Insertion Training.
- Joint Injections 101.
- Breathe Easy: All Things Respiratory.
- Suturing.
- Cardiac Assessment.
- How to Safely Prescribe Opiates.

Visit the [BCNPA website](#) for the complete list of workshops.

BCNPA AGM

This meeting is a unique opportunity to engage with the BCNPA Board and partake in the discussions that continue to form our association. This meeting is for BCNPA members only, so be sure to renew your membership, sign up, and attend!

Social Evening

After the AGM, all conference attendees are invited to share a social evening together with some cocktails and appetizers.

Program for June 4 and 5: Key Note, Plenary, and Concurrent Sessions

June 4 and 5 are packed with:

- Key note speaker: Dr. David Khul will inspire you to strengthen relationships with patients, colleagues and organizations. He will ask us to explore how relationship can facilitate leadership and support effective teams.
- Plenary and concurrent sessions to update you on the latest changes to practice.
- Robust practice and leadership endeavors.
- Gala networking dinner at the Kelowna Yacht Club.
(*Note: there are a limited number of tickets for this event. Purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment!*)

[View more details on the program for the conference.](#)

Register for the conference now and take advantage of early bird rates (effective until May 1, 2016).

Each year this event grows in attendance, sponsorship, and potential.

We look forward to seeing you there!

[Register for the conference now and take advantage of early bird rates in effect until May 1, 2016!](#)

Introducing Your Newsletter Editorial Team

The newsletter is an extension of BCNPA's mandate of acting as the voice for all BC NPs.

The editorial team plays a key role in the BCNPA's communication and information sharing process, and is committed to ensuring you receive a quality newsletter on time.

Here is your team:

Annaliese Hasler



NP since: 2012

Practice areas: Family Practice; Women's and Youth Health (VCH); Complex Seniors Health (FHA).

BCNPA member since: 2010

"BC NPs can offer a great deal to make health care accessible and innovative. We have an opportunity to strategically place ourselves to improve our position in health. I would like the newsletter to

promote communication, transparency, and foster cohesiveness to further strengthen us as a collective. I love connecting people to information, and opportunities. What better way to be involved and bring these things together than through the newsletter!"

David Marцениuk



NP since: 2014

Practice areas: Family Practice, Rural Health, First Nations; Tla'Amin Community Health Centre; VCH.

BCNPA member since: 2012

“NPs in BC may be small in number, but we are making big changes. These are the kinds of stories I’d like to tell through the newsletter. Through BCNPA, I’d like to help inspire advocacy for the NP role in the BC health system. To do that, we need transparency between members, future members, and leaders.”

Ranbir Atwal



NP since: 2015

Practice areas: Geriatric Medicine; Langley Memorial Hospital PATH Unit; FHA.

BCNPA member since: 2013

“I really find value in a team-based approach to the newsletter, and how we, as NPs, inspire change in how health care is provided. Feedback is important to ensure what we recommend is meeting a need. Personally, I’m looking forward to working on new projects with BCNPA, and sharing what others are doing in the field.”

The team will be supported by Debbie Hultgren of [Links Communication Solutions](#), BCNPA’s communication consultant.

Your feedback and story ideas are always welcome. The team also welcomes articles written by our members.

To contact any of the team, please email info@bcnpa.org.

Communication Survey Results

--Contributed by Debbie Hultgren, Communications Consultant, Links Communication Solutions; and David Marцениuk, NP, VCH.

From January 23-31, 2016, the communications committee conducted an online survey to gather data on your:

- Content preferences and expectations.
- Preferences on how you receive information from BCNPA.
- Opinions on BCNPA communication tools and processes.

Thank you to all who participated!

Forty-six members participated out of a potential 192* respondents.

*(*as of January 2016.)*

The Key Results

The top three content areas respondents indicated were *most valuable*:

Updates on how the NP profession is progressing politically	84.78%
NP practice issues	78.26%
Updates on BCNPA projects and political efforts	73.91%

The top three content areas respondents indicated they *expect* from BCNPA:

Updates on how the NP profession is progressing politically	93.48%
Updates on BCNPA projects and political efforts	89.13%
NP practice issues	82.61%
Updates from BCNPA leadership	78.26%

The top ways respondents *currently* receive information are:

Email	73.91%
Newsletter	54.35%
BCNPA annual general meeting (AGM)	52.17%
Self-search on the BCNPA website	52.17%
BCNPA conference	50.00%

The results are very close, and essentially “tied” for second.

The top three ways respondents *would like* to receive BCNPA information:

Email	91.30%
Newsletter	65.22%
BCNPA annual general meeting (AGM)	43.48%

Respondents ranked the following statements the most strongly.

1. I would like to continue receiving emails from the organization on NP events hosted by other agencies. (4.27)
2. Registering for the conference is easy. (4.11)

Next Steps

The results of the survey will be used by the organization to ensure that the information you receive is what you expect and value as active members of BCNPA.

In the immediate term, this data will:

- Help finalize BCNPA’s communication strategy to reflect what members value.
- Inform future communication priorities. Some of the projects currently underway include better content on the BCNPA website, and a regularly published member newsletter.

For any questions or if you would like to see a copy of the detailed results report, please email info@bcnpa.org.

Legislative & Regulatory Updates

--Contributed by Annaliese Hasler, NP, VCH/FHA, and David Marцениuk, NP, VCH.

A number of significant developments in provincial legislation have given NPs the ability to provide better and more comprehensive care to our patients.

There have been a number of significant developments in provincial legislation, which has given NPs the ability to provide better and more comprehensive care to our patients.

MRIs

As of December 3, 2015, NPs are able to order MRIs for patients. This has been updated within the CRNBC scope of practice document. Check with your health authority for further details on how this practice change will be implemented.

For more information on when to order an MRI, take a look at the [Canadian Association of Radiologists referral guidelines](#).

Controlled Drug Prescribing (CDS)

The same bill that allowed NPs the freedom to order MRIs has opened the door to allow NPs to prescribe schedule 1A drugs.

To date, legislative amendments have been passed at the federal and provincial level legally permitting NPs to prescribe these medications. The College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) is fastidiously working to include these regulatory changes into the [NP Scope of Practice](#). Prescribing authority for controlled drugs and substances is expected to be fully implemented by Spring or Summer of 2016.

Be aware that once this scope change is official, each individual NP will have to obtain additional training as set out by the CRNBC to prescribe controlled drugs and substances. The courses are currently listed on the [CRNBC website](#) and can be taken now in preparation for the implemented changes.

Contact a CRNBC Practice Consultant if you require further information at practice@crnbc.ca.

PharmaNet

In conjunction with CDS, prescribing NPs have been given access to PharmaNet. This permits NPs to register through PharmaNet directly, no longer requiring supervision and authority from a physician. This access provides NPs with the ability to review patient medications fostering best practice prescribing.

The CRNBC, the Chief Nursing Officers (CNOs), and the BCNPA continue to work on the changes required for full access to PharmaNet. The CDS Act has been passed with the new nursing regulations. CRNBC has received the go ahead from the MOH to provide prescriptive oversight, including managing triplicate prescription pads, and accountability on prescribing. The effective date is planned for some time in Spring 2016.

This also bodes well for CDS prescribing, as well as reducing polypharmacy and engaging in anti-microbial stewardship. [View more information](#).

Do Not Resuscitate (No CPR Form)

NPs are now authorized to sign off No CPR forms.

This form is considered an order for emergency medical and other health care staff to not perform CPR in the event a discerning situation arises. Currently, the *No CPR* form is only valid in the community setting.

Policy changes have begun to occur in health authorities to give NPs the authorities to sign a hospital based Medical Orders for Scope of

Treatment (MOST) form. Please check with your NP lead to see where your health authority is at in the process.

Furthermore, the language on the Expected Death at Home document has not yet changed and still requires a physician signature. View [HealthLink BC's 'No CPR' form](#).

Palliative Care

Since October 2015, NPs have been able to sign off on palliative care benefits for our patients. This change relieves some of the financial hardships associated with palliative patients.

The BC palliative care benefits give patients coverage for Plan P medications, which includes many prescription and some non-prescription medications. Additional benefits include medical supplies.

Please review the [palliative care program in BC](#), even if you are familiar with it as a few things have changed. View the [palliative registration form](#).

Ministry of Health Update

--Contributed by Kathleen Fyvie, President, BCNPA; NP, FHA.

Kathleen Fyvie, BCNPA President, **Natasha Prodan-Bhalla**, BCNPA VP, and **Stan Marchuk**, BCNPA Past President, continue to meet with MOH on a monthly basis.

We continue to communicate to the Ministry that BCNPA must be included in all discussions related to NP practice. A recent news item related to walk-in clinics is a good example of the need for the NP voice.

[View BCNPA's press release on the subject of NPs improving walk-in clinic wait times.](#)

We continue to communicate to the Ministry that BCNPA must be included in all discussions related to NP practice...the Ministry is receptive...

The Ministry is receptive to this message.

March 7, 2016: Phone Meeting between MOH and BCNPA

The purpose of this call was to discuss the recommendations that BCNPA had put forward on NP education and funding.

MOH has a particular interest in rural and remote, as well as retention and recruitment. They are keen to examine successful models that could be replicated in these areas.

There were lessons learned from NP4BC initiative. MOH is reflecting on 11 years of having NPs in BC, and examining where change is needed in

NP education and funding. (They continue to uphold the view of meeting the needs identified in their 2015 policy papers.)

Team-based care is a strong theme expressed and we are asking the MOH to consider and encourage innovative thinking around team composition and funding.

March 15, 2016: In-Person Meeting with MOH, BCNPA, ARNBC

This in person meeting took place in Victoria to discuss future funding models for MOH NPs in the province, as well as other ideas related to practice.

Eric Bringsli, Director Compensation Policy and Programs, attended on behalf of Marie Ty from Compensation Policy and Programs Branch to answer questions regarding funding options. He provided information to BCNPA and ARNBC on a BC population funding model, and a Fort St. John funding model currently in use. **Kathleen Fyvie** and ARNBC President Zak Matieshyn are in communication with Eric to explore potential for expanding current successful PBF models to other settings.

Ted Patterson has invited BCNPA and ARNBC to provide their input in the next three to four weeks on 'what needs to be done better' with regard to NP education, and compensation/funding. BCNPA's input will inform work on *2016-17 Division Plans and Instructions to Health Authorities on Health Human Resource Planning*.

BCNPA suggested striking a multi-stakeholder working group around funding, but the MOH is not keen on this right now.

BCNPA Committee Updates

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been issuing a letter specifically to first year NP students, letting them know about BCNPA, the benefits of membership, and available scholarship money for student members.

The Committee is also in the process of assessing the possibility of an awards process to recognize outstanding NP members.

New memberships are coming in. (There have been some difficulties with membership registration on mobile devices. For best results, use a computer to purchase or renew your membership.)

With the new membership cycle about to begin, don't forget to renew!

One better: ask a friend to purchase a membership.

With the new membership cycle about to begin, don't forget to renew!

One better: Ask a friend to purchase a membership.

Remember: the more members we have, the stronger our voice becomes!

Remember: the more members we have, the stronger our voice becomes!

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee continues to forge ahead with its projects. Armed with the results of the communications survey conducted in January, the team is currently focused on:

- Assessing and rewriting the content for the BCNPA website to ensure that information there is of value and relevant.
- Finalizing an organizational communication policy that will outline the “do’s and don’t’s” of how we use BCNPA communication tools.
- Supporting the new newsletter team. This team is now responsible for ensuring that all active members receive a content rich, well-written, value-add newsletter every quarter.
- Assessing existing BCNPA brochures and materials and brainstorming strategies for its use.

Communications has been identified as a priority area by the BCNPA Board. As a result, there are other projects currently forecasted for this committee, and volunteers are always welcome to help.

If you are interested in volunteering for a communication project, please contact the Communications Committee at info@bcnpa.org with your expression of interest.

Partner Updates

BC Coalition of Nursing Associations (BCCNA)

BCNPA is a member organization of this group and participates actively in monthly meetings. BCCNA was established to engage elected nurse leaders from across the professional nursing groups in discussion around topics, policy and directions that impact the nursing profession as a whole.

Through the BCCNA, BCNPA has responded to policy papers and met with MOH staff to discuss regulation changes.

Another day at the Legislature is planned for May 9, 2016 during Nursing Week. A policy forum focusing on the ten-year vision for nursing in BC is part of the agenda.

For more on BCCNA, [visit their website](#).

For more on how BCNPA works with the BCCNA, [visit our website](#).

College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC)

CRNBC and BCNPA met and discussed items that affect NPs.

Ongoing Conversations

CRNBC CEO Cynthia Johansen met with Kathleen Fyvie, BCNPA President, and Natasha Prodan-Bhalla, BCNPA VP to discuss items that affect NPs:

- The current definition of NPs and what they do, and the confusion that results from various stakeholder interpretations of “NPs as RNs with extra education”.
- Fee collection by CRNBC and transfer of increased NP dollars to ARNBC. There continues to be discussion and movement toward one nursing college that will include NPs, RNs, RPNs, and LPNs. This will allow for a re-negotiation of fees from the Colleges to the Associations.

No decision has been reached as of yet on the above two topics.

Validating Entry Level Competencies and Reviewing NP Scope of Practice

With the *NP Practice Analysis and NP Entry Level Competencies* by the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRN) published in February 2016, CRNBC is in the process of validating the Entry Level Competencies and NP scope of practice. (All nursing regulatory bodies have been asked to do this.)

CRNBC has invited BCNPA to participate in this work and a meeting is being organized.

[View the practice analysis and competencies.](#)

[View the Practice Analysis Study of Nurse Practitioners report by the CCRN.](#)

Canadian Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (CAAPN)

CAAPN is working on two position statements, which are currently in draft:

1. Access to Comprehensive and Quality Primary Health Care for Indigenous Populations in Canada
2. Increase Access to Primary Health Care for All Canadians

CAAPN continues to work on federal barriers to NP practice (e.g. CRA Tax Credit, and CPP Disability forms). CAAPN is actively engaged with the federal ministry of health in addressing NP issues, including funding.

Chief Nursing Officers (CNOs)

The CNOs have been invited to the next BCCNA meeting to discuss recent practice issues for all of the nursing groups as a result of the new nursing regulation changes. For NPs, the new issues are related to topics such as casting, MRIs, and CDS.

Discussion is also underway about credentialing and privileging NPs in the health authorities. Check with your NP lead or CNO on where your health authority is at in the process.

Association of Registered Nurses of BC (ARNBC)

BCNPA continues to meet with ARNBC ED, Joy Peacock, and President, Zak Matieschyn regarding NP practice issues in the province.

As of March 1, the CNPS is the insurer for personal liability protection for NPs. [Check out this resource.](#)

Other Updates

Other BCNPA from around the BCNPA organization:

- ***Credentialing and Privileging in Fraser Health***
Fraser Health is undergoing credentialing of NPs through a paper process rather than the online process that physicians are currently using. All health authorities seem to be approaching the process differently, depending on current leadership.
- ***Past President's Report***
Plans underway in organizing a meeting of BCNPA's past presidents with the goal to provide assistance and support to the new incoming Board.
- ***BCNPA issued a press release on March 8 in response to a segment on walk-in clinic wait times featuring MLA Terry Lake on CBC Radio's "On the Coast"***
BCNPA represented BC NPs in an important discussion related to health and healthcare provision. [View the press release.](#) [Listen to the segment.](#) The theme coming through in light of the changing landscape for NPs: nothing about us without us.

We Welcome Your Feedback

Please continue to send us your questions, concerns, and feedback. Your input helps ensure that what you receive through this newsletter is of value to you, as a BCNPA member.

Email us at info@bcnpa.org any time.

Your comments will always be kept confidential. We do not publish your feedback without your explicit consent.

The **BCNPA Member Newsletter** is published by:

The BC Association of Nurse Practitioners (BCNPA)
27656 110th Avenue, Maple Ridge BC, V2W 1P6
Email: info@bcnpa.org
Web: www.bcnpa.org

BCNPA Editorial Team

Annaliese Hasler, NP, VCH/FHA
David Marceniuk, NP, VCH
Ranbir Atwal, NP, FHA

With additional contributions and thanks to:

Kathleen Fyvie, NP, FHA; Natasha Prodan-Bhalla, NP, PHSA; Stan Marchuk, NP, PHC; Brenda Ingram, BCNPA Executive Assistant.

Newsletter support and production proudly sponsored by [Links Communication Solutions](#).