



News Release

REGINA (April 27, 2016) –MLA for Regina Walsh Acres, Warren Steinley raises a flag at the Legislature to proclaim April 27, 2016 Nurse Practitioner Awareness Day in Saskatchewan for the second year.

“Today we have an opportunity to acknowledge the role of Nurse Practitioners as vital members of the health care team.” Steinley said. “They are valued partners in health and play a vital role in bringing about the transformation we’re seeing in our health system.”

The number of Nurse Practitioners in Saskatchewan is on the rise. According to the 2015 SRNA annual report, there were 213 NPs registered in Saskatchewan in 2015. Nurse practitioners are health-care providers for patients who need health-care services such as assessment, diagnosis, treatment, follow up and health education. They are educated in advanced nursing practice and have the knowledge, skill and judgment to work autonomously in their role within a broader team.

“Recent changes in the scope of the RN(NP) include: prescribing controlled drugs and substances to better meet patient needs and the recent announcement of the ability of RN(NP)s to sign the death certificate” SRNA Executive Director Carolyn Hoffman, RN said. “Expanding the scope of NPs is good news for patients and families” she added.

Nurse Practitioners work with all health care professionals to promote better health outcomes resulting in timely access for patients, families, and communities. Deanna Barlow, RN(NP), President of the Nurse Practitioners of Saskatchewan (NPOS) added “We believe there is so much more we can contribute to respond to the growing demands of mental health, pain management, acute care, neonatal and pediatric care, emergency care, home care, long term care, palliative care, and end of life care.”

Barlow added “We hope that the province’s recognition of April 27 as NP Awareness Day will increase awareness of the needed perspective that NPs provide.”

The SRNA, as the registered nurse regulatory authority, fulfills its mandate to protect the public by regulating RNs and RN(NP)s to provide safe care. RNs and RN(NP)s provide and improve health care services in collaboration with clients, other members of the health care team, stakeholders and policy makers.

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced knowledge, skills and education that enables them to provide leadership in health promotion and health management. Since 2004, nurse practitioners have worked closely with other health professionals to address complex health needs and manage acute and chronic illnesses within a holistic model of care.

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Saskatchewan (NPOS) is a professional practice group of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association. In collaboration with the SRNA, NPOS advocates for accessible, high quality health by educating the public and raising awareness of the NP role.

SRNA is the profession-led regulatory body for the province's over 11,200 registered nurses including 213 nurse practitioners. The Registered Nurses Act (1988) describes the SRNA's mandate in setting standards of education and practice for the profession and registering nurses. The SRNA is responsible for ensuring continuing competence, professional conduct, standards of practice, a code of ethics and the approval of nursing education programs.

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