



Saskatchewan Registered
Nurses' Association
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News Release

Level of Confidence in Registered Nurses is High

Regina (May 7, 2014) – Results of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) Public Survey released today indicate the level of confidence in RNs is high. Confidence levels in various professions have maintained a similar pattern since 2006.

“Public perception of Registered Nurses compared to other professions remains strong. Similar to results of the 2012 survey, the level of confidence in Registered Nurses is consistently high, and second only to that of pharmacists,” says Karen Eisler, RN, PhD, Executive Director (SRNA).

80% of public respondents agree that more RNs are needed in the province's health system, and 79% agree that the province should have more Nurse Practitioners. This marks an upward trend from 2012 from 75% and 72% respectively.

“Surveying the public is a critical component for our public and member accountability,” continued Eisler. “The staff and governing Council of SRNA work diligently to achieve a number of targets based on ongoing public and member consultations and the public trusts us to continually ensure their safety through profession-led regulation.”

Highlights of the SRNA 2014 biennial survey include:

- To opinions about the level of care provided by RNs, 22% of the public responded “better” in comparison to 17% in 2012. Although the shift is relatively small and not statistically significant, it is a reversal of the score in 2012.
- When it pertains to performing minor surgical procedures, promoting how to live a healthy lifestyle and ordering diagnostic tests, the majority of respondents reported a higher level of comfort when seeing a Nurse Practitioner.
- With regard to RN(NP)s prescribing drugs and assessing and diagnosing illnesses, the means have also increased since 2012.
- 68% indicated support of a publicly-funded health care system, compared to 56% in 2012.
- 49% of the respondents indicated they were aware that the SRNA could be contacted if they had a concern about the competence or conduct of RNs in the province compared to 53% in 2012.
- Only 21% of respondents were aware that the public may go to the SRNA website to see if a RN is licensed.

- When asked questions related to what they believe SRNA is responsible for, the top three perceived responsibilities were: Enforcing a code of ethics or ethics standard for RNs (86%); addressing concerns about RNs (85%); and ensuring RNs trained outside of Canada have the necessary qualifications (85%). The lowest responses were for: licensing RNs” (78%); and setting boundaries for what RNs can do as part of their work (78%).

The 2014 survey completed 405 interviews and was conducted by Strategian.

A full copy of the report is available on SRNA’s website at www.srna.org

SRNA is the profession-led regulatory body for the province’s approximately 11,100 registered nurses including over 125 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 to ensure competent, caring knowledge-based care for the people of Saskatchewan. The SRNA is responsible for ensuring continuing competence, professional conduct, standards of practice, a code of ethics and the approval of nursing education programs.

For more information, contact the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses’ Association:

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