

News Release

Saskatoon, May 3 and 4, 2017 – Over 200 of Saskatchewan's Registered Nurses (RN), RN Nurse Practitioners [RN(NP)s], health system partners and the public will gather in Saskatoon for the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) Annual Meeting and Conference today and tomorrow.

This year, the annual event celebrates 100 years of protecting the public as the profession-led regulatory body and association for the province's over 11,000 RNs and RN(NP)s.

"As a profession-led regulatory body, the SRNA is accountable for public protection by ensuring RNs and RN(NP)s are competent and can deliver evidence-based, safe care for citizens. Our 100-year legacy demonstrates the importance of the registered nursing profession to a healthy population," says Joanne Petersen RN, President, SRNA. "Today's registered nurses are in key roles across the health care system, including direct care and management roles in the community and hospitals, faculty in nursing programs and policy advisors in government. We strive to be caring leaders who are accountable, competent and at the forefront of health policy, education and delivery."

Media is invited to participate in the two-day event at TCU Place, which includes:

- An education conference, bringing 100-years of Integrity, Leadership and Innovation to the nursing profession, takes place on **May 3 until 16:30 p.m.** Marlene Smadu, Past President of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and member of the International Council of Nurses will deliver the opening address. Nurses from across the province will share their expertise through a wide variety of poster and oral presentations. The event will culminate with a diverse panel discussing the Future of Nursing in Saskatchewan.
- The annual meeting takes place on **May 4 at 8:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.** Special guests Barb Shellian, President of the Canadian Nurses Association, and Cynthia Johansen, President of the Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators, will open the event by discussing the leadership role of RNs and RN(NP)s in healthy communities. SRNA will also release the 2017 biennial member survey – a key tool designed to help guide SRNA's strategic plan in an open and accountable way.

SRNA will also honour the outstanding achievements of former and practicing members at the annual SRNA Banquet and Awards Celebration on May 3. The Awards of Excellence were established to recognize RNs and RN(NP)s as well as members of the public who have made an outstanding contribution to nursing practice and to health care here in Saskatchewan. In addition, SRNA will present the Centennial Diamond Awards in celebration of the Association's 100th Anniversary. These prestigious awards recognize exemplary contributions of past, present, and future members. A list of all award winners is attached.

“It’s so important to celebrate the exceptional work of our RN and RN(NP) members. We know that each day there are moments of greatness among us, and today we pay tribute to those individuals who are recognized by their peers, as leaders in providing safe, quality care for patients and families” Joanne Petersen, RN, President, commented.

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses’ Association (SRNA) is a profession-led regulatory body established in March, 1917 by the provincial legislature. The SRNA is accountable for public protection by ensuring members are competent and promotes the professional interest of its members in the public interest. Individual members are personally accountable for their professional nursing practice through adherence to the code of ethics, practice standards and ongoing continuing competence requirements.

The mandate of the SRNA is achieved through a variety of activities including setting licensure requirements and standards of practice; approving nursing education programs; member education sessions and publications, practice consultation services; and, competence assurance processes to transparently address concerns regarding the competence or conduct of members.

**For more information, contact the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses’ Association Media Line:
(306) 539-1442**



Attachment A

The SRNA celebrates the exceptional contributions of each of the following award recipients:

- Effie Feeny Award for Excellence in Nursing Research is given to a registered nurse or group of registered nurses who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of nursing or health-related research that enhances the nursing profession: **Dr. Madeline Press, RN, PhD, Saskatoon.**
- Elizabeth Van Valkenburg Award for Excellence in Nursing Education is given to a registered nurse or group of registered nurses who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of nursing education: **Sharon Dixon, RN, Saskatoon.**
- Granger Campbell Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice is given to a registered nurse or group of registered nurses who has demonstrated clinical excellence in any practice setting: **Leah Thorp, RN, Regina.**
- Jean Browne Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice Leadership is given to a registered nurse or group of registered nurses whose leadership has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of nursing at the local, province, national or international level: **Dr. Arlene Kent-Wilkinson, RN, PhD, Saskatoon.**
- Nora Armstrong Award for Excellence in Mentorship is presented to a SRNA practicing member who has exhibited exceptional mentoring abilities in any of the nursing domains: clinical, education, research, administration or policy: **Jared Dyrlund, RN, Ile-a-la-Crosse.**
- Ruth Hicks Award for Student Leadership is given to a nursing student or group of nursing students who has made a significant contribution and demonstrated leadership as a student leader or group. The student(s) must be enrolled in a Saskatchewan-based baccalaureate nursing program: **Fred Entz, Nursing Student, Saskatoon.**
- SRNA Memorial Book, celebrating the lives and achievements of former SRNA members: **Roberta Mireau (late of Regina) and Yvonne Brown (late of Saskatoon).**

- SRNA Life Membership is the SRNA's most prestigious award. The Life Membership is granted to an individual who is retiring or has retired from the nursing profession and has rendered outstanding service to registered nursing in Saskatchewan. This year, SRNA is recognizing three very deserving individuals: **Dr. Norma Stewart, Saskatoon, Dr. Karen Semchuk, Yorkton, and Wendy Stefiuk, Saskatoon.**

In addition, this year the SRNA is celebrating 100 years of registered nursing practice in Saskatchewan. We are very excited to honor a select few exceptional RNs and RN(NPs) with Centennial Diamond Awards. These prestigious awards recognize exemplary contributions of past, present, and future members.

The SRNA celebrates the following centennial award recipients:

- Past category:
 - **Joan Sawatzky, Saskatoon**
 - **Norma Wildeman, Regina**
 - **Thelma Schedlosky, Humboldt**
- Present:
 - **Arlene Eckert, RN(NP), Saskatoon**
 - **Dr. Netha Dyck, RN, Saskatoon**
 - **Dr. June Anonson, RN, Saskatoon**
- Future:
 - **Jordyn Parenteau, Nursing Student, Saskatoon**