



Constitution of the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers

Approved AGM November 2022



Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be The Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers.

Article II: Purpose

The purposes and functions of the association shall be:

- a) To promote identification and solidarity as a professional specialty;
- b) To promote a philosophy of total care in dialysis/transplant programs;
- c) To develop and promote standards of care for social work in dialysis/transplant programs;
- d) To maintain a dialogue related to the psycho-social implications of changes in patient care. e.g. Medical, political, environmental;
- e) To disseminate information concerning the psycho-social aspects of dialysis and transplantation and problems related to kidney failure;
- f) To provide consultation to relevant organizations. For example, The Kidney Foundation of Canada;
- g) To promote psycho-social research into kidney failure.

Article III: Membership

Section I

The Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers shall consist of active members and associate members.

Section II - Active Members

Any Social Worker currently working in a Canadian Nephrology Program. Active members may vote and hold office and act as a chairperson of a committee. The immediate Past President will be considered an active member.

Section III - Associate Members

Those eligible for Associate Membership include the following:

- a) Social Workers practicing Nephrology Social Work in any area outside Canada;
- b) Professionals practicing in a related field of Nephrology;
- c) Laypersons from related organizations;
- d) Previously active members.



Associate Members may attend meetings, conferences, participate on committees and receive significant mailing. Associate Members may not vote or hold office in the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers.

Article IV: General Meetings

Section I

There will be an annual general meeting for all CANSW members usually held at the CANSW conference.

Section II - Regional Meetings

The Association encourages regional meetings. Nationally, there are five designated regions that may organize such meetings.

- 1) British Columbia and Yukon
- 2) Alberta and Northwest Territories
- 3) Saskatchewan and Manitoba
- 4) Ontario
- 5) Atlantic - Quebec, Nunavut, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island & Newfoundland

The frequency of regional meetings should reflect the needs of the membership.

Section III - Conferences

There will be an organized CANSW Conference held on a regular basis.

Article V: Offices

Section I – Governance of the Organization

Governance of the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers shall be through an Executive committee of ten active members. The Executive will consist of the five regional representatives, the President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and the immediate Past President. Annual elections of officers will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting.

Section II - Election of Officers

- 1) The officers and regional representatives shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Association. The Nominating Committee must seek suggestions from all categories of membership. Elections shall be by majority vote at the annual meeting.
- 2) The Nominating Committee shall consist of:
 - a) Past President (Chairperson)
 - b) Two representatives from the General Membership of the CANSW



Section III - Terms of Office

Each officer shall serve for a two-year term. The term shall commence upon such officer's installation at the Annual General Meeting.

Each officer shall be eligible for re-election for not more than one additional term of office in the same position.

It is imperative to ensure continuity and prevent complete changeover in the executive committee at any one time. Therefore, the immediate past president will be an active member of the executive committee and participate in the executive meetings for the first year of a change of president. In addition, the Nominating Committee will actively seek nominations for executive positions that ensure the continuity of the executive.

Section IV: Vacancy in Office

In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Executive Committee shall elect a successor, preferably from nominees selected for such an office by the Nominating Committee. The appointee to fill such a vacancy shall serve until the next election.

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section I - Mandate

The Executive Committee, during their respective term(s) shall carry out the functions and purposes of the Association.

Section II – Composition – Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the five regional representatives, the immediate Past President and the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The Executive Committee may appoint additional members as required by the needs of the Association, such as the CANSW web-based administrators: the Listserv Moderator, the Social Media Coordinator and the CANSW Voice Blog Editor.

The Executive will meet on a monthly basis. One meeting will be held in conjunction with the general meeting which will be held on a regular basis. A quorum will consist of a simple majority (50% + 1) of those present at a duly called meeting. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings will be available at the annual general meeting.

The immediate past president shall remain an active member of the executive for the first year and an ex-official member for the remaining term of Past President. The Chairperson of a standing or ad-hoc committee will provide representation for such committees at Executive Meetings upon request by the Executive.



Article VII: Regional Representation

Section I

The Nominating Committee must seek suggestions from members in each region, from all categories of members, to provide representation (See Article IV, Section II) to the Executive Committee. As liaison, representatives will inform the association at large of their region's activities by means of the CANSW listserv.

Representatives are also welcome to communicate any region-specific concerns and/or issues to the Executive Committee.

Article VIII: Relationships with Collateral Organizations

Section I

Relationships with related organizations shall be maintained by the President or delegate appointed by the Executive Committee.

Section II

The President or alternate will act as Canadian representative to the Council of Nephrology Social Workers (USA) Newsletter.

A representative of CANSW may act as a liaison and consultant to the National Programs and Public Policy Committee of the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

CANSW representatives may be designated to other ad-hoc committees that have a working relationship with the Association.

Article IX: Standing/Ad-Hoc Committees

Section I

There shall be standing and ad-hoc committees of the Association as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The chairperson of each committee shall be appointed by the Executive. Membership to the committee will be sought by the appointed "chair". Regional representation shall be sought out when practical.

Article X: Dues

Section I

The Association is a non-profit organization and any dues collected shall be utilized only for operational and educational purposes. The annual dues shall be established by the membership upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.



Article XI: General

Section I - Conduct of Business

In the operation of the Association, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern to the extent they are compatible herewith.

Section II - Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee will be mailed to that committee and will be posted on the CANSW website.

The minutes of the Executive Committee and all committees shall be open to review by the membership.

Minutes of the Annual General Membership meeting will be circulated to all members.

Article XII: Amendment to Revision of the Constitution

A review and/or update of the Constitution of the CANSW shall be completed by the Executive at least every five years. Amendments/revisions to the Constitution must be circulated to the membership a minimum of 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Amendment/revisions to the Constitution will be done by secret ballot through attendance at the Annual General Meeting or a mail-in ballot (for those unable to attend) received prior to the meeting. A majority will consist of 50% + 1 of the total ballots received.