

CONSTITUTION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY SOCIAL WORKERS

ARTICLE I: NAME

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

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

The purposes and functions of the association shall be:

- a) To promote identity 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, eg. 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, eg. Kidney Foundation of Canada.
- g) To promote psycho-social research into kidney failure.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

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 dialysis/transplant program. Active members may vote and hold office and act as a chairperson of a committee. The immediate Past President will always be considered an active member.

SECTION III-Associate Members

Former active social workers wishing to maintain their membership, professionals from other disciplines, and lay persons from related organizations. Associate members may attend meetings, sit on committees, receive significant mailings, but may not vote or hold office.

ARTICLE IV: CHAPTERS

Chapters of the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers may be formed on a provincial basis. Where appropriate, provincial chapters may be divided into regional committees. Chapter coordinators will sit on the Executive Committee, keep the executive informed of chapters' activities and provide material as required to the delegate to the Council of Nephrology Social Workers (U.S.A.)

ARTICLE VSection 1-Meetings

The Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers shall meet annually.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERSSection 1-Officers

The Officers of the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The President and Secretary shall be from the same geographical area whenever possible. When feasible, the two Vice-Presidents shall be elected from regions other than the President and Secretary. For purposes of elections, the country will be divided into three regions and regional representation shall be sought. Annual elections will be held.

East: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I., Newfoundland

Central: Ontario, Quebec.

West: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, North-West Territories

Section 11-Election of Officers

- (i) The officers 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 or by proxy vote.
- (ii) The Nominating Committee will consist of:

Past President (Chairperson)

President

1 representative from the General Membership

Section 111-Term of Office

Each officer shall serve for a one-year term. The term shall commence upon such officer's installation at the annual meeting.

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

Section 1V-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 VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEESection 1-Purpose

Between the annual meetings the purposes of the Association shall be carried out by an Executive Committee.

Section 11-Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, Immediate Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, Chairpersons of Standing Committees and Provincial Co-ordinators. The immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for one year following his or her term.

ARTICLE VIII: RELATIONSHIPS WITH RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1

- (i) Relationships with related organizations shall be maintained by delegates appointed by the executive committee.
- (ii) The president or alternate will act as Canadian editor to the Council of Nephrology Social Workers (U.S.A.) News.

Section 11-Paramedical Council/Kidney Foundation of Canada

- (i) Two representatives and an alternate (from the active or associate membership) will be appointed to the para-medical council by the executive committee. The representatives will be appointed for a two-year term.

ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1

There shall be standing committees with the Chairperson of each standing committee appointing the members of the Committee. Regional representation shall be sought.

ARTICLE X: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Section 1

The President of the Association may appoint Ad Hoc Committees as it may be deemed necessary.

ARTICLE XI: DUES

Section 1

The Association is a non-profit organization and any dues collected shall be utilized only for operational and educational purposes.

ARTICLE XII: GENERAL

Section 1-Conduct of Business

In the event that the operation of the Association has procedural questions, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern to the extent compatible herewith.

Section 11-Minutes and Communications

The minutes of the Executive Committee will only be mailed to that committee. The minutes of the Executive Committee and all committees shall be open to inspection by the membership.

Section 111-Quorum

A quorum at any annual or general meeting shall constitute 1/3 of the active membership.

Revised 1982