

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NEPHROLOGY SOCIAL WORKERS

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ARTICLE 1: NAME

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

ARTICLE 11: PURPOSES

The purposes and functions of the association shall be:

- a) To promote identification and solidarity as a professional speciality;
- 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 111: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

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

Section 11--Active Members

Any Social Worker currently working in a dialysis/transplant program in Canada. 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. Executive officers must be from Ontario, (See Article V, Section 1).

Section 111--Associate Members

Those eligible for Associate Membership include the following:

- a) social workers practising Nephrology Social Work in any area outside Canada;
- b) professionals practising in a related field of nephrology;
- c) laypersons from related organizations;
- d) previously active members.

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

ARTICLE IV:

Section 1--Meetings

The Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers shall meet at least annually, as well as holding regional meetings (eg. Ontario) three times per year.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1--Officers

The officers of the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers shall be a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary/Treasurer. The President and Secretary shall be from the same geographical area. All executive officers shall be from Ontario. Annual elections will be held and if possible, held in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Section 11--Election of Officers

- (1) 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.
- (11) The Nominating Committee shall consist of:  
Past President (Chairperson)  
Two representatives from the General Membership of the C.A.N.S.W.

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 VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1--Purpose

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

Section 11--Composition

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, and the delegate to the Council of Nephrology Social Workers (U.S.A.). The immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for one year following his or her term. The executive shall meet at least four times per year. A quorum will consist of a simple majority (50%+1) for those present at a duly called meeting. Minutes of the Executive meeting will be available upon request.

ARTICLE VII: RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1

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

Section 11--Patient Services Committee, Ontario  
Branch/Kidney Foundation of Canada

- (1) A representative of the C.A.N.S.W. will act as liaison and consultant to the Patient Services Committee, of the Kidney Foundation of Canada. This may be at the national or provincial level and designed to facilitate the cooperative work of our two organizations.
- (2) The C.A.N.S.W. executive will designate a representative to the Paramedical Research council of the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1

There shall be standing or ad hoc committees of the Association as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The chairperson of each committee shall be elected and shall appoint membership to the committee. Regional representation shall be sought as much as practicable.

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ARTICLE IX: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Section 1

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

ARTICLE X: DUES

Section 1

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 1--Conduct of Business

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

Minutes of general membership meetings will be circulated to all members in good standing.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendment to the Constitution can be made by a majority of the membership at the annual meeting upon 14 days prior circulation of proposed amendment.

Adapted from C.A.N.S.W. Constitution September 30, 1980.  
Amended and approved - Toronto, Ontario November 13, 1984.  
Circulated March 15, 1985.