


**NATIONAL NURSING WEEK**  
May 9-15

**JONATHAN HAMELIN**  
POSTMEDIA CONTENT WORKS

Many Saskatchewan residents are confident that their registered nurses (RNs) and RN nurse practitioners (RNs) can help them navigate through Saskatchewan's complex and always changing health care system. This is based on information obtained from the 2016 Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association's (SRNA) biennial survey - RNs: Practice and Perception Research Report, conducted by Strategian.

Residents strongly agreed with the statements "I have confidence in the professional ability of registered nurses" (4.25 out of 5 mean) and "registered nurses and RN(NP)s support me to make informed decisions about my health" (4.12 mean).

"RNs and RN(NP)s have a deep knowledge and skillset that they bring to delivering patient care with a team approach. In the end, we hear from the public, and definitely from our employers and other stakeholders in the province, that RNs and RN(NP)s are delivering safe, competent, ethical and culturally appropriate care to patients and families," said Carolyn Hoffman, RN, Executive Director of the SRNA.

 RNs and other members of the team have to invest in their own competencies and skills to keep up with all of the latest developments to deliver safe quality care.

**CAROLYN HOFFMAN, RN,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF THE SRNA

"There are 11,285 practicing RNs and RN(NP)s in the province. This number has been increasing each year over the past 13 years. It's one very important reflection of the valuable role they're playing in the system in terms of the need for their expertise."

RNs and RN(NP)s work in many practice settings: point of care, research, education, administration and policy. To become licensed as an RN, one must complete a number of requirements including successful completion of a baccalaureate nursing program approved or recognized by the SRNA. There are two baccalaureate nursing education programs in Saskatchewan:

the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing program (offered in partnership by the Saskatchewan Polytechnic School of Nursing and the University of Regina Faculty of Nursing), or the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program through the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan. An RN(NP) is an advanced practice RN who has completed additional education at an advanced level.

As Hoffman explains, a key factor that helps RNs and RN(NP)s stay on top of their profession and adapt to a changing health care system is pursuing "continued education."

"Every year, we see changes to health care technology and an increase in the complexity of health conditions that patients experience. RNs and other members of the team have to invest in their own competencies and skills to keep up with all of the latest developments to deliver safe quality care," she said.

"Patients and families benefit from new advancements in the industry. RNs need to understand these new developments and use them safely and competently when dealing with patients. One of our key priorities is RNs providing evidence-based care. We have the expectation that our RNs seek and incorporate the latest evidence in the care they deliver."

The SRNA, established in 1917, is the profession-led regulatory body for the province's RNs and RN(NP)s. With its primary mandate being regulation, Hoffman notes that the SRNA reviews and approves entry-level nursing education programs in the province whose graduates go on to seek licensure as an RN or RN(NP). The SRNA also has a continuing competence requirement for all RNs and RN(NP)s and works closely with them to ensure they are promoting the concept of "continued education."

"We want to ensure that these programs are laying the foundation of ongoing learning. When you look to these programs, it's clear that they're doing a great job of helping nurses become lifelong learners," Hoffman said.

"As an association, we also provide information and resources that help RNs meet these challenges. We partner with employers, educators, local and national organizations to deliver education to RNs. In 2015, we partnered with the Canadian Nurses Protective Society (CNPS), and employers in the north to deliver two workshops. It's all about giving RNs the confidence that they have the knowledge, skills and abilities to deliver care that's safe and competent."

As the health care system continues to change in Saskatchewan, Hoffman stresses the need for more RNs and RN(NP)s to help meet the increased demands. It's a point the public agrees upon, as well. Overall, the level of agreement to the survey question, "Currently, more RNs are needed in the province's health care system," was rated high (mean of 4.26), while



There are 11,285 practicing Registered Nurses and RN Nurse Practitioners in Saskatchewan. Above and below, nurses work to deliver quality care to their patients. PHOTOS: SRNA



Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) was established in 1917 and is the profession-led regulatory body for the province's RNs and RN(NP)s. ABOVE (left to right): SRNA President Linda Wasko-Lacey, Executive Director Carolyn Hoffman, and Public Representative on SRNA Council Jyotsna (Jo) Custead.

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# National Nursing Week

May 9-11 2016 Nurses: With you every step of the way.

Join us in celebrating Nursing Week. Take time to reflect on the contribution nursing makes in helping the people of Saskatchewan maintain, and enhance their health and quality of life.

