

This newsletter invites NACN-Canada members to participate in the first four goals of the association:

1. To integrate members' prayer life and participation in the sacraments with their moral life and professional practice
2. To mentor or be mentored by Catholic colleagues in the health professions
3. To access resources related to ethical issues in health care
4. To endorse written and oral submissions that contribute to public discourse on health care issues
5. To participate in research regarding issues of interest to the association
6. To learn about volunteer service opportunities



Last chance to register!

NACN-Canada will have a conference table and five of its members at the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies' conference in Toronto May 31-June 2, 2019. Please join us!

<https://canadiancatholicphysicians.com/conferences/>

The program includes:

Friday, May 31:

- Catholic Teaching on Life Issues – Elevator pitch, succinct explanation, and media approach (Neil MacCarthy, Archdiocese of Toronto Director of Public Affairs)
- Presenting ethical issues to trainees in a secular medical school (Eoin Connolly, Clinical Ethicist)
- Building and nurturing Catholic physicians' societies (Toronto Catholic Doctors' Guild students)
- The transformative potential of narrative in ethically ambiguous circumstances (Dr. Ann Sirek, Endocrinologist)
- 1730h: Opening Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral; 1800h: Opening reception

Saturday, June 1:

- 0800h: Daily Mass at St. Michael's Cathedral
- Counselling patients suffering from the effects of unhealthy sexuality (Dr. Thomas Bouchard, Family Physician, Dr. Ed Rzakki, Psychiatrist, and Dr. Michael Sy, Psychologist)
- Update on conscience rights and religious freedom (Dr. Ramona Coelho, Family Physician)
- Secular and Christian approaches to stress, burnout and existential suffering (Fr. Peter Turrone, Neuroscientist and University Student Chaplain)
- Discussing end-of-life options with suffering patients (Dr. John Scott, Palliative Care Physician)

Sunday, June 2:

- 0800h: Mass of the Lord's Day at St. Michael's Cathedral
- Moral theology, co-operation with evil, and the "duty to refer" (Dr. Quentin Genuis, Family Physician)
- Christian anthropology and modern sexuality (Dr. Moira McQueen, Theologian)
- Catholic moral teaching, addictions, and harm reduction (Dr. Darren Holub, Psychiatrist)
- Salvific suffering, palliative care and euthanasia (Dr. Josie Lombardi, Moral Theologian)
- Healing from stress and burnout – Seeking out the Divine Physician (His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins)

The conference fee for students and associate members of local Catholic Doctors' Guilds (including nurses) is \$215. Fees for Friday only or Sunday only are available (\$150 and \$120 respectively.) To qualify for these reduced rates, join your local Catholic Physicians' Guild on the conference registration link shown below (\$10 for students and \$40 for nurses).

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/11th-annual-cfcps-conference-2019-tickets-54932536696?invite=&err=29&referrer=&discount=&affiliate=&eventpassword=#tickets>

Support Bill C-418 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)

The Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act (Bill C-418) introduced by MPP David Anderson in the House of Commons on October 30, 2018 is **due for debate on May 29**. The text of the bill is found here: (<http://www.davidanderson.ca/wp-content/uploads/EN-FR-C-418.pdf>).

Sign the online petition here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pq832R8fLxdiM5D6wZHbyaZr2IjtWSYT/view>

NACN-Canada's president, Dr. Freida Chavez, wrote to Mr. Anderson to support Bill C-418 on March 10, 2019 (see next page).

Please write to both your provincial and federal Member of Parliament to raise legislators' awareness of the impact of coercion to participate in legal but unethical procedures. Meet with them in person, if you can. Ask your (federal) MP to vote in favour of Bill C-418. Your MP's contact information is here:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>

March 10, 2019

Hon. David Anderson,
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

david.anderson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Anderson,

I am writing on behalf of our association to support Bill C-418, the *Protection of Freedom of Conscience Act*. Thank you for introducing this bill. We agree that it is in the public interest to protect the freedom of conscience of health professionals, consistent with Section 2 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. We respectfully ask that you add “and their students” when you have an opportunity to make amendments to the bill.

The National Association of Catholic Nurses / Association Nationale des **Infirmières** Catholiques – Canada, (NACN-Canada or ANIC-Canada), formed in June, 2018. One key issue of concern to us is that Canadian law mandates procedures that are not therapeutic or palliative, but instead terminate the lives of our patients. Our association provides an opportunity for nurses to support each other during periods of moral distress related to changes in the law through mentoring, access to resources regarding ethical issues in health care, participation in public discourse, engagement in research on issues of interest to the association, and volunteer opportunities.

Please advise us of any way that we could be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Freida Chavez, RN, BScN, DNP, FAAN
President,
NACN-Canada / ANIC-Canada

Effective Referral

The Ontario Court of Appeal delivered its unanimous decision endorsing the College of Physician and Surgeon of Ontario’s (CPSO’s) requirement for “effective referral” on May 15, 2019.

The CPSO requirement for “effective referral” affects both physicians and other regulated health professionals, since employers and other health professions’ regulatory bodies adopted the concept. For example, nurses in Ontario who cannot participate in legal but unethical procedures “must transfer the care of a client who has made a request for medical assistance in dying to another nurse or health care provider who will address the client’s needs.” <http://www.cno.org/globalassets/docs/prac/41056-guidance-on-nurses-roles-in-maid.pdf>

The Court of Appeal’s unfortunate decision brings attention to the need for legislation to protect health care professionals from coercion to participate in legal but unethical procedures. Please write to both your provincial and federal legislators. Urge them to vote for Bill C-418 and to pass similar laws.

NACN-Canada's response to ANA on euthanasia & assisted suicide

National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada(NACN-Canada)
PO Box 19525, Manulife Centre, 55 Bloor St. West,
Toronto ON M4W 3T9

April 5, 2019

Center for Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board,
American Nurses Association

To whom it may concern,

The National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada urges the American Nurses Association to maintain its position that "participation in assisted suicide and euthanasia is strictly prohibited." (ANA, 2013. Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, and Aid in Dying.) This position statement represents a courageous voice of dissent that is valued both within and outside of the U.S.A.

Our association formed in 2018 primarily in response to Canadian nurses' moral distress regarding the nation-wide legalization of medically induced death. Professional associations and licensing bodies across Canada endorsed the legal changes, requiring conscientious objectors to participate in "Medical Assistance in Dying" by "effective referral" to facilitate access to induced death at the patient's request. Faith-based health care facilities were and continue to be pressured to participate. Nurse practitioners were trained to prescribe and administer lethal medications to patients that they or others deem qualified for euthanasia.

Unlike Oregon, Canada has not experienced a growth in palliative care along with the rapid expansion of induced death. Instead, we experience ongoing demands for access to lethal injections for new categories of patients, including "mature minors;" those who write advanced directives; and those whose mental illness is the sole condition underlying their request.

Social justice demands that nurses advocate for the protection of life, not for increased access to induced death as proposed in the 2019 draft statement, "The nurse's role when a patient requests aid in dying." Nursing participation in assisted suicide and euthanasia affirms the patient's perception that life is not worth living, and represents the ultimate abandonment of the patient.

The Canadian experience provides evidence to support ANA's continued resistance to these practices. We urge the ANA to maintain its courageous opposition to assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Freida Chavez, RN , MHSc, DNP, FAAN
President, NACN-Canada

Helen McGee, RN, MN, CPMHN(C)
President-Elect, NACN-Canada



Become a member of NACN-Canada: complete & mail this form (see p. 6 for address)

Membership type: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____

Province & Postal Code _____

(International) _____

Personal email _____

Cell phone _____

I agree to receive email/texts from NACN-Canada

I agree to share my name, email address, and student status with www.newmantoronto.com

I have included payment

Signature _____

Types of Membership and Fees

General Members:

Catholic nurses licensed to practice in Canada, including Emeritus nurses, who consider their professional practice as a vocation grounded in the teachings of the Catholic Church, pledge to support the mission of the association, and pay the required annual dues. General Members have a vote and are eligible to serve as Board officers or on committees. **\$50.00 / year**

Associate Members:

Non-Catholic nurses, Emeritus nurses, and non-nursing healthcare professionals who accept Roman Catholic values and moral principles, pledge to support the mission of the Association, and pay the required annual dues. Associate members have a voice, but are non-voting members. They may serve as committee members, but not as Board Officers or committee chairs. **\$30.00 / year**

Student Members:

Catholic pre-licensure nursing students and students of other health disciplines with proof of student status, who wish to align their practice with Catholic moral teaching and the Association's mission, and attend an accredited health professional program in Canada. **\$15.00 / year**

FROM <http://priestsforlifecanada.com/> via DuckDuckGo (used with permission of Priests for Life)

A NEW DAY FOR CATHOLIC NURSES

February 1st, 2019

One of the shining glories of Canada is its massive size – coast to coast to coast takes up untold thousands of miles. This size also makes contacts and national endeavours extremely difficult. Whether building a national railroad or even getting a national organization built takes constant effort and hard work. We certainly see this here at Priests For Life Canada where both contacting and staying in contact with supporters and priests and other clergy has its steady challenges, but at least we can locate Catholic clergy. For many other pro-life groups that concentrate on professionals such as doctors, lawyers or nurses, it is much more difficult. That is why we here at Priests For Life Canada see part of our work as being a bridge between groups and individuals within the prolife movement. There may not always be a prolife group in one's area or town but there is almost always a Catholic Church and a priest who is solidly prolife. Priests and other Catholic professionals know each other and interact.

Just a few months ago in June of last year a new initiative for Catholic Nurses began here in Canada – The National Association of Catholic Nurses – Canada (NACN-C). It was started by several nurses in Toronto with the blessing and support of Cardinal Collins, and it is seeking a Canada-wide membership. I had met a founding member, Helen McGee, at a symposium on euthanasia in Toronto last year and she filled me in on plans for the NACN-C launch last June. This is great news! Already they are seeking international affiliation and are expanding their reach and membership. I would strongly urge you to read their newsletter and subscribe and get actively involved in their outreach.

Do you know some Catholic nurses or medical professionals in your parish or area, or diocese? Maybe you have met them in previous parishes where you have been stationed, or at diocesan events or programs. Would you be willing to contact them or link them to the NACN-C or let us do it for you? We need our nurses and medical professionals to be supported in every way possible. As I have said and written before, these people really are front line workers and are subjected to a daily barrage – spiritually, professionally and emotionally. We have needed this kind of initiative for a very long time and I want to say that Priests For Life Canada will back the NACN-C to the best of our abilities so that we can help to build that strong support network, and also so that the voices of these caring and skilled professionals will be heard. Let's take this on as a 2019 goal. Please contact them at nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com or check the website <https://nacncanada.weebly.com>.

On another note – the beginning of 2019 also has meant that I am settling into my post here as rector of St Peter-in-Chains Cathedral, and I will be available again for speaking and presentations. Along with our new Operations Manager, Kelly Bondy, we'll be responding to your requests and inquiries. Don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas or your needs. By Fr. Tom Lynch

NACN-Canada email address: nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com

Website: nacncanada.weebly.com

Please direct membership applications to the mailing address:

NACN-Canada
PO Box 19525, Manulife PO,
55 Bloor St. West
Toronto ON M4W 3T9