Who is CNSA?
The Canadian Nursing Students’ Association (CNSA) was founded in 1971 as the Canadian University Nursing Students’ Association (CUNSA), which only included university students, not diploma students. In 1991, the name was changed to the CNSA when it incorporate diploma students into their mandate.

The CNSA includes students in Registered Nursing (RN), Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN), and Practical Nursing (PN) programs.

The CNSA has three main objectives:
1. To be the primary resource for Canadian nursing students
2. Influence and advance innovation and social justice in the nursing curriculum and the nursing profession
3. Strengthening linkages and creating new partnerships

CNSA Committees
- Advocacy
- Community & Public Health
- Global Health
- Informatics
- Bilingualism & Translation
- Diversity
- Indigenous Health Advocacy
- Research & Education

Winnipeg 2017 National Conference
The past National Conference was held in Winnipeg, MB and the theme was “Breaking Barriers Through Exploring Cultural Safety”. Attendees went to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, participated in numerous workshops, listened to multiple speakers, and participated in the yearly National Assembly.

Advocacy & Policy
CNSA allows students to have a voice on the national level within the organization and with National Stakeholders. Stakeholders include: Canadian Nursing Association (CNA), Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN), Canadian Federation of Nurses Union (CFNU), and Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association (CINA).

In alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Call to Action (2015), CNSA voted to create a Director of Indigenous Health position on the Board of Directors to close the gaps in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Canada.

NCLEX-RN Creative Movement
The American NCLEX-RN was implemented in Canada as the entry-to-practice exam in 2015. The CNSA has been actively working to resolve many of the issues that have arisen since the implementation of the NCLEX-RN. Some key issues are: low first time pass rate, extremely low francophone pass rate (27%), lack of French prep resources, the financial burden for prep material and multiple re-writes, lack of Canadian values and content in the exam, and American content in the exam (CNSA, 2016).

2018 National Conference Nanaimo
Interdisciplinary Nursing Care: the Future of Health Care Excellency
Vancouver Island University won the bid to host the national conference for 2018 while in Winnipeg this past January. The overall theme of the conference will be Interdisciplinary Excellence in Health Care, and will look towards the future of nursing and the medical field.

Guest speakers will come from a variety of disciplines and will address current issues surrounding mental health and the impact of modern medicine on the environment and how the environment plays a key role in the overall health of a population.

The conference will also include an electronic health record (EHR) exhibit featuring the different views health care professionals have when accessing the EHR.

Workshops will also address conflict resolution techniques as well as give an insight into the struggles the indigenous population has faced in the past and how these events have impacted their future.

Resources