



May 13, 2019

**Greetings to all CARN members,**

We want to update you on the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 teleconference with Mike Villeneuve RN, M.Sc., and CEO of the Canadian Nurse's Association. Marie Marques RN, BA, MPA, Program Lead, Credentialing Centre, CNA, was in attendance as well. Both of these leaders were instrumental in the creation of the Neuro and Rehab Specialty Exams respectively. They are personally and professionally committed to specialty nursing and saddened by the decision to retire 5 specialty exams, including Rehab.

**At the meeting 3 areas were discussed:**

1. November 2019 Exam: This is the last scheduled exam. Every Rehab Nurse who certifies has the opportunity to keep their certification by Continuous Learning for the duration of your nursing career and beyond. We intend to do everything we can to reach the ambitious goal of 100 new writers. We need to utilize as many tactics as possible to reach out to members to encourage Rehab Nurses to write in November. Mike Villeneuve has offered to create a new YouTube clip to add to our promotional materials. The 20% discount voucher for the exam fee is still available to all CARN Members.
2. CNA Specialty Nursing: CNA reports that Specialty Nursing Associations have been decreasing in numbers of members and new writers over the past several years. CNA is exploring a number of initiatives as incentive options to support specialties. These include: Engaging with unions to bargain for wage related incentives, engaging with employers to tie accreditation with numbers of certified nurses in a facility, and exploring the possibility of tax incentives as options to make specialty nursing more attractive and sustainable. CNA is also exploring partnering with international groups, such as in China that wish to access Specialty Nursing Certification.
3. Exploring next steps if the Rehab Nursing Specialty Exam is retired in Nov 2019. We discussed options for a less rigorous certification process. The current system is very expensive as the exam questions are protected. A possible alternative could include educational materials that include quantifiable evaluation that has CNA oversight and support for credibility.

In closing, the executive will be meeting again with Mike Villeneuve and Marie Marque. We invite your suggestions and insights in all areas to bring to the meeting. Please inform your Rehab Nurse colleagues and promote the November exam far and wide. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to and enthusiasm for Rehab Nursing.

Sincerely,

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