



April 2, 2009

Note to the Presidents of AAEs

Re: CNA's New Nursing Innovations Exchange

I am writing to you to let you know about an exciting new initiative at CNA – the Nursing Innovations Exchange.

The Nursing Innovations Exchange, to be launched in April 2009, will be an interactive online database of innovative solutions that nurses are implementing in response to challenges posed by inadequate resources and workforce shortages in the health-care system. It will be a place where nurses can enter their successful innovations, and a place where other nurses, decision-makers and policy-makers can search and view the innovations. Our goal is to improve Canada's health-care system through the exchange, and ultimately the implementation, of innovative solutions in workplaces and schools.

Our focus is on workforce redesign, workplace environment and education innovations that have improved a service, program, structure, product and/or system. We will not be including any clinical or practice innovations at this time. Examples of innovations that we may include would be innovations that address workforce challenges by applying new technologies, altering staff mix, changing the roles nurses play, and implementing efforts to address workforce diversity.

We know that there are other databases and information systems in Canada that also target innovative practices, including clinical, and that there may be some overlap. We want to make sure that nurses who come to the Exchange are made aware of these initiatives. To that end, I invite you to suggest links to similar databases or information repositories that you think should be included in our Links section.

Please send the URLs and a brief description of the database or system to dfaulkner@cna-aiic.ca by **April 17, 2009**. We will go live in April.

I am also attaching a newsletter article (and accompanying logos) about the Nursing Innovations Exchange. Where you are willing and able, we would appreciate your efforts to inform your members about the Exchange by including this article in upcoming editions of your print and online newsletters. If you are willing to help CNA promote the Exchange in other ways (e.g. a link from your website, an advertisement), please contact Della Faulkner at dfaulkner@cna-aiic.ca or 613-237-2159 ext 230, as she can provide these items to you.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the Exchange, please contact Della.

Stay tuned for additional information on the Nursing Innovations Exchange, as we get closer to our launch.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Bard".

Rachel Bard, RN, M.Ed
Chief Executive Officer