

**Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Board of Directors Policy**

Policy Type:	Policy Governance	Title:	Support for Members of RNAO members running for public office
Number:	PG – 7	First approved by Board:	April 9, 2003
		Review:	Every 2 Years (Sept)
		Last Reviewed:	September 2016
		Monitor:	Annually (Sept)
		Last Monitored:	September 2017

PURPOSE

This policy is intended to provide guidance regarding support for registered nurses (RNs), nurse practitioners (NPs) and nursing students who are members of RNAO, running for elected public office. This policy is informed by two long-standing policy priorities of the association:

1. Ontario needs RNs, NPs and nursing students involved in policy development at all stages – including elected office. Only in this way will health and social policies reflect the knowledge, expertise and experience of members of RNAO.
2. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario has a long and successful multi-partisan position. We do not endorse any one political party. Rather, we take an issue-by-issue approach in our lobbying and advocacy activities.

To this end, the Board shall not fail to ensure that:

- a. Any RN, NP or nursing student running for elected public office, who is an RNAO member*, will be provided an opportunity to send a letter requesting support, to other RNAO members – with e-mail access – living in the region. It is up to the individual member to decide whether or not to support the RNAO member candidate.
- b. RNAO will provide this support to candidates who are RNAO members – regardless of their Political Party affiliation.

* RNAO engagement in disseminating information about any members, exclusive of Friends of Nursing, does not indicate endorsement.