

# CAMSN Newsletter

The official newsletter for the Canadian  
Association of Medical & Surgical Nurses  
August 2018

## 2018 Conference

*CAMSN's 2018 Conference in Ottawa was a success! There were 103 attendees and 15 remarkable presentations. The next CAMSN Conference will be held in 2020, location to be determined.*

CAMSN is an associate  
member of the **Canadian  
Nurses' Association  
(CNA)**

## EXECUTIVE CONTACT INFORMATION:

### PRESIDENT

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### PAST PRESIDENT

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### SECRETARY

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### COMMUNICATIONS

Esther Rees, RN, BScN, CMSN(C)  
esther.rees@usask.ca

### 2018 CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Laura Neal, RN, BN, MN, CMSN(C), CD  
laura.neal@forces.gc.ca

*Have you ever thought about joining  
our team? Contact Esther Rees,  
Communications Executive, if you are  
interested in learning how you can  
become involved.*

## Our Vision

To be the voice of medical and surgical nurses in Canada

## Our Mission

Medical and surgical nurses provide nursing care to adults experiencing complex variations in health. They utilize diverse clinical knowledge and skills to care for multiple acutely ill adults and their families. They are leaders at organizing, prioritizing and coordinating care as well as working with interdisciplinary teams. The practice of medical-surgical nursing requires application of evidence-based knowledge and best practice standards to provide quality, safe and ethical care to clients across the continuum of care. The CAMSN nurse advocates, supports and promotes the integral role of medical and surgical nurses to the health care system.

**"Let us never consider ourselves finished  
nurses... we must be learning all of our lives."  
- Florence Nightingale**

CAMSN

ACIIMC



Canadian Association of Medical and Surgical Nurses

Association Canadienne des Infirmières et Infirmiers en Médecine-Chirurgie

# CAMSN Executive

*Join Our Team!!! We need  
YOU!*

## Have you ever thought about joining our team?

**The team of CAMSN Executives is currently looking for  
future executives for the following roles:**

**President:** Be a representative and spokesperson for CAMSN. Be the contact person for the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) on behalf of CAMSN. Participate in the CNA Network Meetings and the Certification Program Advisory Committee Meetings on behalf of CAMSN. Promote the objectives of CAMSN. Document and submit reports of CAMSN activities to the CNA. Preside over all meetings of the Board.

**President Elect:** Succeeds to the presidency upon expiration of the President's term. Exercises duties of the President in the President's absence. Works in partnership with the President, carrying out the work of the board and has duties assigned by the board.

**Secretary:** Document the minutes of all Board and membership meetings. Will be responsible for the storage of reports and records of CAMSN. Maintain membership database. Send out official notice of all Board and membership meetings.

**External Communications Officer:** Participate in the composition of all communications on behalf of CAMSN. Determine and monitor content on the CAMSN website.

## A little more information...

- Executive members serve a two-year term, beginning in January.
- Your involvement with CAMSN as an executive member would become effective immediately with a mentorship period until the following January.
- If you are CAMSN certified, executive board membership contributes up to 25 CL hours towards your continuous learning activities. Get involved today!
- The CAMSN Executive Team is looking for fresh ideas on how we can best support and collaborate with medical-surgical nurses across the country.

Please forward your name, contact information, and a 250-word bio on why you would like to join the CAMSN board to **Esther Rees, External Communications Coordinator** if you are interested.  
([esther.rees@usask.ca](mailto:esther.rees@usask.ca))

*Don't wait any longer. Become part of an  
amazing team that is passionate about medical-  
surgical nursing!*



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# CNA Certification Program

Application window to renew by continuous learning is currently open!

The CNA is continuously looking for ways to improve the certification program and will continue to make changes. Some enhancements that were made based on feedback from 2017 include:

- ❖ Revamped website that its easier to navigate
- ❖ Exam results will now be e-mailed within three weeks of the end of the exam window
- ❖ The creation of a new platform for practice questions
- ❖ Simplified tracking of continuous learning hours
- ❖ Actively working with Pearson VUE to improve Computer-Based Testing venues and locations



"It is common for nurses to gain experience in medical-surgical nursing as a stepping stone to advance their career into the world of intensive care or emergency nursing. For me, medical-surgical nursing is my career and I wouldn't want to work anywhere else. Every day presents something different and every patient that I have the privilege to care for is unique. I chose to obtain my Certification in Medical-Surgical Nursing not only to validate my ongoing learning as a nurse since graduation, but to also promote my belief that medical-surgical nursing is indeed a specialty area. Passing the certification exam was one of the most satisfying moments of my career so far!"

- Esther Rees, RN, BScN, CMSN(C)

**FALL Registration is now open!**

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> → Application window to write exam & renew by exam

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> → Exam window to write exam

## Learn more about becoming CNA Certified in Medical-Surgical Nursing:

### Initial Certification

- Minimum of 3,900 hours of experience as a RN in your specialty area over the past 5 years
  - Written certification exam
- See more, including the application process at:  
<https://nurseone.ca/en/certification/get-certified>

### Certification Renewal

- Minimum of 2,925 hours of experience as a RN in your specialty area during your current 5-year certification term
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of your specialty area through either:
  - Continuous Learning – 100 hours of continuous learning activities over your 5-year certification term
  - Re-writing the certification exam

See more at:  
<https://nurseone.ca/en/certification/renewing-your-certification>



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# Ways to become more involved with CAMSN...

## Education Corner

*An Education Corner has been added to the Canadian Association of Medical and Surgical Nurses' official website, [www.medsurgnurse.ca](http://www.medsurgnurse.ca), as well as the quarterly newsletters.*

CAMSN's goal is to provide educational pieces that best serve the interest and learning needs of medical-surgical nurses across Canada.

- ❖ **Do you have an idea for our Education Corner? Is there a medical-surgical topic you would like to know more about?**
- ❖ **Are you involved in nursing education? Would you like to contribute an educational piece? Have you done a research study relevant to medical-surgical nursing?**
- ❖ **Are you writing the Medical-Surgical Certification Exam and there's an area of nursing included in the competencies that you'd like to know more about? Tell us what it is! We can create an educational piece to support you in your exam preparation.**

Visit: <https://medsurgnurse.ca/education-corner/> for access to all of the previous pieces included in the Educational Corner.

**"The capacity to learn is a *gift*; the ability to learn is a *skill*; the willingness to learn is a *choice*." – Brian Herbert**

## Feature Member

The Canadian Association of Medical and Surgical Nurses would like to feature innovative CAMSN members who are making a difference in medical-surgical nursing.

If you would like to be featured in a CAMSN newsletter and/or on the website, send us your work initiative (500-750 words).

If you would like to nominate someone to be featured, let us know and we can contact them!

## Contact Us!

Do you have an idea for our newsletter? Do you have a question for CAMSN, or an upcoming workshop you would like shared with fellow members?

We would love your feedback and we encourage our members to share their expertise!

**Please contact Esther Rees,  
External Communications  
Coordinator at  
[esther.rees@usask.ca](mailto:esther.rees@usask.ca).**

Visit the official CAMSN Website!  
**[www.medsurgnurse.ca](http://www.medsurgnurse.ca)**  
Join the official Facebook group!  
Search: **CAMSN**

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