

# A CANADIAN COUNCIL OF NURSE RESEARCHERS

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At the post-conference meeting of the Colloquium on Nursing Research in Montreal on March 30, 1973, it was suggested that the third conference be planned for 1974 rather than 1975. At this point the question was raised as to whether there would be enough studies underway within a year to warrant this. The Planning Committee for The Third National Conference on Research in Nursing has found over eighty projects, in which nurses are project directors, principal investigators or co-investigators, ranging from those being planned to those recently completed.

Assuming that there are often gaps between projects, there must be well over one hundred Canadian nurses involved in research. A few Canadian nurses have demonstrated involvement in more than one investigation in this period yet most carry heavy teaching or service responsibilities, and very few are able to devote full-time to research.

Although the foundations of research in nursing in Canada have been built by university faculty members, there appears to be an increasing number of nurse researchers employed in service institutions, community health agencies, government, professional and other associations. Some of the latter very new appointments are for full-time research activities. Although the majority are located in or near the major health science centres, some appear to be relatively isolated from other health researchers.

Possibly a few of the Canadian nurse researchers belong to the Council of Nurse Researchers of the American Nurses' Association. It was organized in 1972 to advance research in nursing and the exchange of ideas among its members and associates. It is restricted to those who have earned a master's or higher degree and are engaged in the conduct of research, guiding graduate students in research, or serving as consultants in research. It is responsible to The Commission on Nursing Research of the American Nurses' Association.

Are we ready to organize a Canadian Council of Nurse Researchers? Do we need an organization to provide clearing house functions on a national basis? Are we able to keep informed about on-going research as well as completed research? Do we need further opportunities for better communication? To what extent have we been able to plan for collaboration? Do we need opportunities to synthesize the outcomes of the many small, often isolated studies that could be brought together to identify gaps for which investigation is required? What access do we have to short, intensive, educational opportunities to extend and deepen our knowledge about new facets of research methodology? Do we need a framework for promoting scientific sessions, conferences, colloquia and special interest groups?

If we are ready to organize a Canadian Council of Nurse Researchers, should it be associated with the Canadian Nurses' Association, the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (which does not include those who are not faculty members), or The Learned Societies? An advantage of the latter would be that ultimately a group could emerge, on a similar basis to the Canadian Association for Studies in Education, as the Canadian Association for Studies in the Health Sciences.

This proposal aroused such interest that a special session was time-tabled at eight-thirty before the regular program of the third day. A Task Force was appointed to pursue this development: Dr. Moyra Allen, Dr. Margaret C. Cahoon, Professor H. Elfert, Dr. M. Josephine Flaherty, Dr. Margaret R. Francis, Dr. Amy E. Griffin and Dr. Shirley Stinson. The members of this Task Force would like to hear from you about your interest in A Canadian Council of Nurse Researchers.