



BOD Nomination for Western Region

Chelsea Simpkin, BScN, BNAD, RN CNCC(C)

Lethbridge, AB

Nominated by: Joseph Harrigan, Edmonton, AB

Tell us why you are seeking a Board of Director position

I hope to contribute to CACCN by bringing new perspectives that support critical care nurses across the career span, particularly by promoting membership and certification. One overarching goal I envision is developing an accreditation framework for ICUs in Canada, where certification rates form part of measurable outcomes. With my board colleagues, I aim to advance innovative strategies that expand education, mentorship, and professional networks. My motivation for seeking a board position is to strengthen the professional community, ensure the nurse's perspective informs critical care research, and promote excellence in practice through collaboration and leadership opportunities.

CACCN / Volunteer Involvement

I have actively engaged in advancing critical care nursing through leadership, education, and professional development initiatives. In my local intensive care unit (ICU), I previously led and chaired a quality improvement team, where I collaborated with colleagues to identify practice gaps, implement evidence-based changes, and evaluate outcomes to enhance patient care and staff performance.

Building on this experience, I took on a national perspective by leading a task force to review the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses (CACCN) resources related to preparation for the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) critical care specialty exam. This role allowed me to assess the accessibility, relevance, and quality of educational materials, while also identifying opportunities to strengthen supports for nurses pursuing certification.

At the chapter level, I have been actively involved in promoting these resources within my local community of critical care nurses, recognizing that awareness and accessibility are key to encouraging professional advancement. Looking ahead, I am organizing and will be leading an information session in collaboration with a current CACCN board member to highlight the benefits of CACCN membership and the professional value of critical care certification. This planned initiative is designed to foster dialogue, mentorship, and collaboration among nurses at different career stages.

In addition, I will soon be volunteering on the CACCN Professional Development Committee, where I look forward to contributing to broader initiatives aimed at supporting continuing education, certification, and leadership growth among critical care nurses. Collectively, these experiences reflect my commitment to advancing critical care nursing practice.

Personal Statement

My name is Chelsea Simpkin, and I am a critical care nurse who brings both northern and southern Canadian perspectives to my professional practice and leadership.

I was raised in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, where I lived for 20 years, and for the past 12 years I have lived in Lethbridge, Alberta. My personal and professional journey across these two regions has given me a unique perspective on the opportunities and challenges faced by nurses in different geographic and health system contexts. Growing up in the North instilled in me adaptability, resourcefulness, and a strong sense of community-based care, while my experience in southern Alberta has provided opportunities to practice in larger, more complex health systems. These experiences shape how I approach leadership and critical care nursing, with a commitment to equitable access to safe, high-quality care for patients across Canada.

My educational background reflects my dedication to lifelong learning and professional advancement. I completed a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science at the University of Lethbridge in 2014, followed by a Bachelor of Nursing with distinction in 2016. I am currently enrolled in the Master of Nursing program at the University of Alberta, pursuing my goal of becoming an acute care/critical care nurse practitioner. This graduate preparation has strengthened my clinical reasoning, leadership capacity, and ability to translate evidence into practice—skills I believe will serve me well as a Board Director.

Professionally, I have worked across acute, outpatient, and intensive care settings, including ICUs at Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife and Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge. These roles have provided firsthand understanding of critical care in both resource-limited and resource-rich settings. I have also worked in orthopedic surgery, stroke, geriatrics, physical rehabilitation, and the outpatient heart function clinic, broadening my perspective on patient transitions across the continuum of care. I hold certifications including OPACCA, CCNC(C), ACLS, BLS, TNCC, and CRRT, and I regularly engage in continuing education to enhance my clinical and leadership skills.

Leadership and volunteer experience complement my clinical work. I chaired my ICU quality improvement council, led a CACCN national task force reviewing resources for the CNA critical care certification exam, and organized information sessions to promote certification and membership. I also volunteer on the CACCN Professional Development Committee, mentor nursing students and new ICU staff, and have participated in fundraising initiatives to improve access to cardiac services.

As a Director, I hope to advance initiatives that increase membership and certification rates, expand mentorship, and integrate the bedside nurse perspective into research, policy, and decision-making. I also envision developing a national ICU accreditation framework where certification rates are a measurable standard.

My clinical expertise, academic preparation, leadership experience, and lived perspectives from both the North and South uniquely position me to contribute meaningfully to CACCN's mission and Board of Directors.