



November 25, 2009

Mary-Anne Robinson  
Executive Director  
College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta  
11620 168 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5M 4A6

**Re: Post on the CARNA Website – Nursing Summit Presentation**

Dear Mary-Ann:

I'm writing to follow up on our conversation regarding the post on the CARNA website about the presentation that Dr. Duckett and I gave recently to a forum of nursing leaders. As I indicated, that report of the meeting and our presentation is inaccurate and seriously misrepresents the project we discussed.

To cite some specific examples:

The post refers at length to one of the studies we cited undertaken at Toronto East General Hospital. As the post points out, this was one of a number of studies we cited in the context of studies of how nurses spend their time. We did not endorse or critique the study. The inference in the CARNA post is that we have endorsed the study and that it was a possible model for our project. That is not correct and from the correspondence we have received, has already created considerable confusion.

The post says I: "confirmed what we'd already heard: over the next 12- 18 months, AHS intends to hire less than 40 per cent of nurse graduates, layoff RNs, and offer voluntary retirement packages to others."

Again, that is not correct. I did not state that AHS intends to hire less than 40 per cent of nurse graduates. Dr. Duckett did say, though, that we had hired approximately 40 per cent of the August graduation group. He made no comment about AHS' intentions. The only comment Dr. Duckett or I made about layoffs was that we are trying to avoid them – the opposite of what is stated on the website.

Dr. Duckett's comment about nursing's future is also taken out of context. He suggested that because there are environmental pressures on the health sector that impact us all, such as the recession, nursing's future is not solely in nursing's hands. That is quite a different message from that conveyed in the post. *In fact, the intent of the forum was to engender collaboration and signal that we need nurses to help inform the future.*

The comment about the Faculty of Business at the University of Alberta has also been taken out of context. Our intent was to highlight our commitment to ensuring we have a broad research and measurement approach to the project. This could involve a number of stakeholders such as nursing, medicine, and health sciences. In fact, the Faculty of Business is not yet confirmed as one of the participants.

Our objective is to move forward collaboratively with CARNA. However, as I expressed to you, I am most disappointed that CARNA uploaded a statement of this kind and I ask that you correct the inaccuracies or withdraw the post.

Sincerely,

Andrea Robertson  
Senior Vice President/CNO  
Nursing Strategies

cc: G. Monteith, Asst Deputy Minister  
Health Workforce Division  
Alberta Health & Wellness

cc: S Duckett, President and CEO  
Alberta Health Services