

Key Events in Alberta's Nursing History

Leading to the founding of the Alberta Association of Nurses



- **1916** – The Alberta Association of Graduate Nurses, later known as the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN), is created to control standards of practice in nursing as well as training programs.
- **1931** – The psychiatric nursing educational training school opens in Ponoka, Alberta.
- **1947** – Nursing Aides Act is passed, providing for the licensing of the Certified Nursing Aide.
- **1950** – The Alberta Psychiatric Nurses Association is founded on May 1 by Ted James.
- **1965** – AARN becomes involved in collective bargaining on behalf of members.
- **1975** – Karen Scott graduates from the University of North Carolina as one of the first nurse practitioners in Canada.
- **1977** – The collective bargaining arm becomes a separate organization. The United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) is founded on May 6.
- **1977** – A report aimed at legitimizing the expanding role of the nursing profession is published titled *Employment Opportunities for Nurse Practitioners in Alberta*.
- **1988** – January 1 sees the formal proclamation of the Psychiatric Nurse Regulation to the Health Disciplines Act.
- **1990** – The title of registered nursing assistant changes to licensed practical nurse (LPN).
- **1996** – Alberta is the first province to legislate nurse practitioners to practice.
- **1997** – The Staff Nurses Association of Alberta becomes a part of UNA.
- **1999** – AARN becomes the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA).
- **2002** – Government regulations change so that nurse practitioners must register with CARNA.
- **2003** – LPNs are proclaimed as a regulated health profession under the Health Professions Act.
- **2004** – The Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta is founded.
- **2018** – CARNA approves capacity for NPs to prescribe controlled substances and methadone/suboxone.
- **2019** – Alberta Health begins the Primary Care Networks Nurse Practitioner Support Program in April.
- **2020** – CARNA votes to separate regulatory and association functions just ahead of Bill 46 which legislates this change for all healthcare regulators in Alberta.
- **2022** – The Alberta Association of Nurses (AAN) is launched May 9.