



Public Statement Policy

Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing National Office

Purpose

The purpose of this Public Statement Policy (“Policy”) is to define the circumstances and context in which the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) will issue public statements.

Definitions

Public statement: A public statement is an official written statement drafted by or on behalf of the President of CASN, with society at large as its intended primary audience. This document will be distributed to policymakers, the media, and the general public—and will speak on behalf, and with the full weight, of CASN—to address, contextualize, or bring attention to issues or events taking place within the sphere of the CASN’s values and expertise, with relevance to the greater human condition.

Considerations

CASN may issue a public statement in the following circumstances:

- a) When societal tragedies arising from violations of universal humanitarian principles, human compassion, decency, and well-being affect nursing or nursing education;
- b) For empathy in the event of disasters, when those disasters have a basis in, or an effect on, nursing education;
- c) Following events of violent racism, misogyny, or any form of bigotry or hate with a societal-level impact on public well-being and the aspirations of nursing education;
- d) When a statement would offer something new to the discourse, such as novel nursing education insights, suggestions on how to move forward, or how CASN is or will serve as an example by doing things differently.

CASN will not issue a public statement in the following circumstances:

- a) When public statements imply or are expected to be, a consensus in opinion and ideology among its members;
- b) Where CASN has previously and recently issued a public statement on an identical subject matter;
- c) Where it is deemed not to be in the best interest of CASN.

Procedure

In the event that a CASN member, board member, or CASN Interest Group wishes to have CASN consider making a public statement, they must contact the Executive Director in writing and identify who they are, the reason that CASN should make a public statement, and what they believe should be included in a public statement. If a CASN Interest Group brings forward the request, it must be brought forward by the Chair of the Interest Group, who must confirm that the request was approved by a majority of the members of the Interest Group.

Following receipt of the required information, CASN's Executive Director will bring the request for a public statement to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

CASN's Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, will determine whether or not CASN will issue a public statement.

Review

The aspects determining this policy are subjective and are rooted in a particular time and place. A one-size-fits-all approach will inevitably have its limitations and may be inadequate. As such, this policy will be reviewed every two years and will be open to discussion and refinement by CASN's Board of Directors as may be requested by a board member from time to time.

Date of Approval

May 26, 2024

Date of Review

May 26, 2026