

## **2025 Federal Election – President’s Message**

**Jacob Ahiaegbe, MBA, RN**

With today’s federal election and our Manitoba Legislature Day on the horizon, I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight how ARNM is enhancing our advocacy efforts.

Government relations are essential to building strong relationships with individuals in government who have influence and decision-making power. As a member-driven and member-funded organization, ARNM is accountable to you.

The relationships we cultivate with the government play a crucial role in our advocacy efforts, ensuring that the interests of nurses across Manitoba, regardless of their practice settings, are represented and defended. We recognize that governments must balance the interests of all public institutions, and ARNM must compete for their attention on your behalf with solutions.

We are continually engaged with all levels of government, collaborating closely with our government relations team at First Lake Solutions. We listen to and analyze policies, budgets, and priorities to identify gaps and present opportunities and solutions that we, as a professional association, can provide.

Last year, we met with numerous elected officials, cabinet ministers and staff to advocate for and present a proposal for an Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) pilot program, promoting the training and reintegration of internationally educated nurses into Manitoba's nursing workforce.

We hosted a successful Legislature Day, where we met with elected officials from across the political spectrum to share your priorities and emphasize the critical role of our members in strengthening our public health-care system. This includes efforts to improve nurse retention, enabling nurses to practice to their full scope, ensuring nursing input into decision making, enhancing support for students and supporting efforts to end homelessness.

ARNM works mainly at a provincial level, but also at the federal level in collaboration with Canadian Nurses Association. Governments can change, and so we actively engage with officials from all parties and levels of government.

They hold valuable ideas and influence, and we must never underestimate their potential to help us further our profession's collective goals and interests.

Government relations is a responsibility we all share, and together, when we unite as a community, we can achieve great things for our profession and for health care in Manitoba.

ARNM has achieved significant success over the years, serving as a strong voice and a key source of information and collaboration for the government in policy-making decisions. These accomplishments are thanks to you, our members.

Thank you for your continued commitment and contribution.

Jacob Ahiaegbe, MBA, RN  
President