

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NANB Proposes Immediate Solution to Doctor Shortage

FREDERICTON, Monday March 13, 2017 – The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) is concerned as to why the provincial government has not called upon nurse practitioners (NPs) to fill existing primary care provider vacancies. In a province with some of the highest rates of chronic disease, mental illness and poverty in Canada - the numbers of vacant primary care providers are unnecessary when there are willing and able, New Brunswick nurse practitioners seeking employment to maintain their registration to practice in the province.

“Legislated to practice in New Brunswick since 2003, we have seen little to no commitment from government to increase the role of NPs within our health care system, forcing graduates to look elsewhere in the country for employment,” says Laurie Janes, Executive Director of NANB.

Educated to: assess; prescribe several medications; order necessary tests; and establish a treatment plan, NPs regularly consult with other health professionals including both family physicians and specialists. Surveys continue to indicate a very high-level of patient satisfaction with NP service. Although barriers in legislation still exist, the NANB continues to work with various departments to see amendments that would give NPs the authority to practice within their full scope.

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“The Association continues to call for government to increase NP services, reiterating not only that NPs are highly-educated, competent and safe primary health providers,” says Brenda Kinney, President of NANB, “but they also offer a viable, cost-effective solution to a financially exhausted health care system.”

“NPs are prepared to provide a solution for New Brunswickers without access to primary care providers,” says Michelle Daniels, President of the New Brunswick Nurse Practitioner Interest Group. “All it takes is the willingness of all stakeholders to embrace a system change that has been proven successful not only in other parts of Canada, but around the world.”

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