



Who's who in nursing?

BC's main nursing bodies

In BC we have three bodies who work on behalf of the nursing profession:

- **The BC College of Nurses and Midwives** (BCCNM, the College or the Regulator). The BCCNM has ONE mandate: to protect the public. Nurses register with the College in order to be licensed to practice. This is not optional. You must register to practice in BC.
- **Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC** - Since 2018 NNPBC has served as the unified nursing professional association. We were the first in Canada to unite all of the nursing designations into one association. Our job is to ensure that nursing is at the forefront of health and social policy.
- **Unions (BCNU, HEU etc.)** - Unions are fundamentally important to the profession because it's their primary job to secure, salary, benefits and working conditions on behalf of nurses.



We like to think of it as a three-legged stool. The stool may be stable with two legs but three make it even more stable. And, that's the point.

 **NursingKnows**



What about the other organizations or items I hear about? Who are they?

We get it. There are so many acronyms for health organizations out there it can be really hard to know who is who. Remember, while it can seem confusing, getting the details right really matters. We've all seen what 'fake news' can do to our world and we know how fast it spreads on social channels, so if you have questions, refer to the below.

1

Regulatory Framework

Health Professions Act

The Health Professions Act (HPA) outlines the broad regulatory framework for all of BC's health care professionals.

This Act came into effect January 1, 1997 and has undergone several changes over the years. Anyone can google the HPA and read it. Really, give it a try.

Type "HPA BC" in google and see what happens.

2

The College (Regulator, regulatory body)

RNABC - This one is old school! In 1935 the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) was established to focus on regulation of registered nurses while also working to broadly influence the healthcare system. This body existed until 2005.

CRNBC - In 2005, BC Health Professions Act was changed and the College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) was formed. Changes to the BC Health Professions Act (HPA) mandated that the regulatory and advocacy functions be separated. Under the new HPA, colleges were mandated to take on the role of regulation and public protection. Advocacy on health and social policy were noted as outside of the purview of the regulator because protecting the public and advocating on behalf of the profession is a conflict (this is exactly why having a professional association is so important).

BCCNP - The CRNBC became the BC College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) in the spring of 2018. This change happened because all of BC's nursing regulatory bodies amalgamated and became a single nursing regulatory body inclusive of all of BC's nursing designations.

BCCNM - In September of 2020, the BCCNP (formerly known as CRNBC) became the BC College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM). This reflected the amalgamation of the College of Midwives of BC with the BCCNP. British Columbia is leading the way as Canada's first nurse and midwife regulator and are the largest of western Canada's largest health professional regulators.

3

Professional Associations

ARNBC - The Association of Registered Nurses of BC (ARNBC) was established in 2010 and served both RN and NP members (RPNs and LPNs were NOT part of ARNBC). ARNBC was funded through a fee collection agreement with the College from 2015 until December 31, 2019. NNPBC is NOT ARNBC and ARNBC is NOT NNPBC. These remained completely separate organizations (really they did) until ARNBC was dissolved in November 2020.

BCNPA - The BC Nurse Practitioner Association was established in 2005 and served as the professional association for Nurse Practitioners until it amalgamated with NNPBC in 2018.

ARPNBC - The Association of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC was established in 2014 as the professional association for RPNs. ARPNBC was in existence until 2018 when their members voted in favour of amalgamation with NNPBC.

LPNABC - The Licensed Practical Nurses Association of BC (LPNABC) served as the professional advocacy association for Licensed Practical Nurses for nearly 50 years until it dissolved into NNPBC in April 2020. This was done in agreement with the LPNABC Board of Directors and allowed NNPBC to pay all outstanding LPNABC debts.

CNA - The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) is your national professional association. Up to 2021 NNPBC served as the 'member' for CNA in BC. This has changed for 2021 onwards but we want to make it really clear, our connection to CNA is not going away, nor has it diminished. We remain connected to our national colleagues and encourage all BC nurses to join. And also, please remember that while we do understand this is a difficult new path forward for many people, the decision was not made lightly and was made in consultation and collaboration with CNA.

4

Professional Liability Protection

CNPS - CNPS is the Canadian Nurses Protective Society. CNPS is a Canada-wide not for profit that offers legal advice, risk management services, legal assistance and professional liability protection to more than 135,000 nurses across the country.

Professional liability protection is a practice requirement for RNs, RPNs and NPs. While you may have heard or think that your employer protection is adequate or that you don't 'need' the extra protection that CNPS offers, this is not the case.