

Welcome to the inaugural issue of NNPBC News which will provide you with a monthly update on the work your Association is doing to advance the profession and help transform our health care system. We are proud to welcome every single nurse in the province to be an active and engaged participant, regardless of your designation, workplace or title. NNPBC has emerged after more than a year of consultations and discussion and we are excited and energized by the power of all nursing voices coming together as equals in advancing the voice of nursing and influencing health and social policy in British Columbia.

Free Membership in NNPBC

As we move into this transitional year, we welcome all nurses, student nurses and retired nurses to sign up to receive information from NNPBC, participate in elections and voting (spring 2019), take advantage of the programs and services we'll be offering, and engage in consultations about NNPBC. Our hope is that you will work with us to form the new association to meet your needs. Please visit nnpbc.com/membership to sign up today at no cost!

Answering the Fees Question!

We know many nurses are concerned about the mandatory high fees you pay to both the Regulatory body and the Union. A priority for NNPBC is to keep costs down as much as possible (for example, we will be relocating our offices in the Granville Island area to Burnaby in the next few months to reduce rent and make our offices more accessible for groups of nurses who require space for meetings and events). For RNs and NPs, the fee collection agreement that was signed by CRNBC and ARNBC is a legal contract that both sides will honour through 2019. However, our intention is to have a new voluntary fee structure in place for all nurses beginning in January 2020. Remember to sign up to become a member of NNPBC at nnpbc.com/membership so you can have your say in building our membership and fee structure.

Job Opportunities

As we expand our work and begin to focus on developing programs and services for all nurses, we look forward to adding to our team of dedicated staff. If you are interested in working for NNPBC, keep an eye on postings on our [Join our team page](#). All nursing positions are open to nurses from any designation and we look forward to modelling the equity we value at the board level in our staff appointments.

Consultations Throughout the Province

Throughout the rest of this year and 2019, we will be working in partnership with the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) to consult with BC Nurses about the types of programs and services you believe are valuable provincially and nationally. [Watch our website](#) for more information as we build this plan, and remember to sign up for [free membership in NNPBC](#) if you want your voice to be heard.

Bringing BC LPNs and RPNs into the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA)

NNPBC was the impetus for the CNA to change their bylaws and include all four nursing designations in their national programs, policy work and services. NNPBC is the *only* way for B.C. nurses to belong to CNA. Although there has been an arms-length relationship with LPNs through CNA's specialty network, NNPBC does not consider licensed practical nursing to be a 'specialty' practice, nor does CNA – but there has never been any other mechanism for LPNs (or RPNs) to be affiliated with CNA. We believe every nurse in the country is autonomous and should have equal membership in both their provincial and national associations. *Only* through NNPBC will all BC nurses have the opportunity to be equal members in CNA – voting, working on committees, attending the AGM (which is in Vancouver in 2019) and helping to establish new programming at CNA as they too expand their work to include every designation. Stay tuned for updates on the membership model as CNA goes through its own governance review now that its bylaws permit the membership to open up to all categories of nurses. The team in Ottawa is excited about the changes and is at work to put structures in place quickly to welcome LPNs and RPNs!

Getting Down to Business to Resolve Scope of Practice Issues

We know nurses are frustrated with the inconsistencies in how scope of practice is applied throughout the province, particularly LPNs. With a new college and new association in place, now is the time to resolve these issues. NNPBC has partnered with Government, the College and Health Authorities to establish a committee that will identify scope of practice challenges and move forward to make significant changes where required. We look forward to sharing more information about this work in the coming weeks. LPNs will be the first group engaged in this process, but we won't stop there – we'll tackle the same question for RNs, RPNs and NPs as we move forward. If you want to be engaged in this conversation, remember to sign up for your [free NNPBC membership](#).

Nursing Education Leadership Institute – Needs Assessment Survey

We have received the go ahead to begin building a provincial Nursing Education & Leadership Institute (NELI) which will provide opportunities for nurses from every designation. To kick us off, all nurses are invited to fill out a 'Needs Assessment' survey that will provide us with more information around what you believe are the most important areas for us to build courses and certificates around. Once established, the new Institute will provide ongoing education and leadership programs for members of NNPBC. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/LH65QZG for more information and to complete our survey.

Anti-Stigma Workshops

In April 2016, BC's provincial health officer declared the Opioid Crisis a public health emergency. Since then, the number of individuals lost to overdose has continued to climb, and BC still loses nearly four individuals every single day. One of the most significant challenges is ongoing stigma faced by individuals who use drugs when they enter a healthcare setting, and the impact that has on their willingness to seek care. NNPBC has developed an anti-stigma program, under the leadership of 'Spike', a long-time resident of the Downtown East Side, which brings together individuals who use substances and nurses for an open discussion of these challenges and a reflection on how we can improve our interactions on both sides. Anyone interested in more information about this program should check out nnpbc.com/antistigma. We welcome you to book a group or yourself to experience this unique opportunity, meet with members of the community and engage in a two-way conversation to reduce barriers that exist between the healthcare community and those who use drugs.

Nurse Practitioners – Call for Abstracts – Due November 5

The Annual NP Conference will be taking place in Prince George from May 30 – June 1, 2019. The Call for Abstracts is open now and runs to November 5th! This is a great opportunity for all NPs to share their knowledge, research and ideas. [Click here](#) to view the Abstract page and get started on your submission.

Meet the NNPBC Board and Councillors!

Our Board and Councils are made up of strong, knowledgeable nurses from across the province. [Click here](#) to review the current list of NNPBC Board Members and how to contact them (note the student and public representatives will be named later this month). [Click here](#) to learn about the councils that represent your designation. And stay tuned in the spring when we will have our first set of elections!