



The College Reporter

Summer 2008 Volume 2

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to spring! The days are getting longer, the crocuses are beginning to appear, the grass is getting greener, the drudgery of winter is almost behind us, and it must be spring, soon to be followed by summer. I often wonder as the new season evolves, do we also evolve and reflect on the newness of the season in relation to the “seasons” of ones career and profession in nursing. I had the opportunity this past February and March to meet with all our new students soon to be graduates and answer their many questions re what to expect as they transition into new LPNs. In May our first two year diploma prepared graduates entered the LPN profession. What was remarkable was their eagerness to get going and their leadership attributes, far beyond what I would have anticipated. Congratulations are in store, good luck on their national exam, and welcome to the profession, you are surely needed!

Thought for the day.

Workload is not a problem, we can solve. It is a PROCESS we have to MANAGE.

Leadership... is about results. It is not about position, title or power. When you step up and lead in your position, you make performance meaningful for yourself and others. Being a leader means making a difference ... and having an impact personally and professionally. Leadership starts with you!

Highlights of Board Meeting

May 28, 2008

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board took place on May 28, 2008. Highlights included:

- Updates on the legislation; PHSOR report; and Models of Care Initiative Nova Scotia (MOCINS);
- Update re NSCC additional LPN seats for September 2008;
- Update re the government’s introduction of the Fair Access to Regulated Health Professions Act and its’ implication for the College;
- Full approval of NSCC Lunenburg Campus Program Evaluation;
- Discussion re possibility of mandatory upgrades re Pharmacology and Health Assessment; and the official launch of the Continuing Competency Profile for LPNs.

LPN Award of Excellence in Clinical Practice nominees

- Region I**
 Tamara Ballard
 Ann Marie Walters
Region II
 Donald Llewellyn
 Judy Veinott
 Mary Low
Region III
 Amy Finney
 Eva Greene
 Marilyn LeBlanc

- Debra Nelson
 Susan Spears
Region IV
 Alanna Hayne
Region V
 Deborah Daix
 Margaret MacKenzie
 Marlene MacIntosh
 Diane Marie
 Saunders

LPN Award of Excellence in Mentorship/Preceptorship nominees

- | | |
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| Region I
Sheila Atkinson | Region IV
Donna Sarson |
| Region II
Donald Llewellyn | Region V
Catherine McPherson |
| Region III
Ethel Landry | |

And the winners are...

LPN Award of Excellence in Clinical Practice

Tamara Ballard, LPN



This award recognizes an LPN for their outstanding ability to provide patient care; for their contribution to the LPN profession; and role of the College.

This year’s Award recipient is Tamara Ballard, a graduate of NSCC Lunenburg Campus of 2001 and a former employee of Fisherman’s Memorial Hospital, Lunenburg. Tamara’s nomination came from Wendy Moscovitch, a pharmacist working with Seniors Community Health Team in Lunenburg. This is what she had to say about Tammy. “Tammy’s commitment to improving the lives of seniors has been impressive. She has the ability to know when to probe a little deeper looking for cognitive deficits and when to

just hold someone and let them cry.” Local doctors refer community patients to Tammy specifically because they value her expertise in geriatrics. When geriatricians come to clinics they ask for Tammy to pre-assess their clients. Community visits with Tammy begin with intensive research through medical records, followed by comprehensive geriatric assessments and gathering of collateral information from family and friends.” Along with local doctors, Tammy is a driving force behind the Annual Geriatric Day in Lunenburg. Moscovitch states, “Tammy has advanced the role of the LPN by developing a specialized practice in geriatrics and then sharing her expertise and enthusiasm with all who share her passion for improving the lives of seniors in Nova Scotia. She surely fills the vision ... as a dynamic professional, committed to excellence.”

LPN Award of Excellence in Mentorship/Preceptorship

Ethel Landry, LPN



This Award recognizes an LPN for their outstanding ability to provide guidance and support to their colleagues and students, contributes to

the teaching and learning of their colleagues and students within the nursing profession.

Ethel graduated from the former Cape Breton Regional Vocational School in Sydney, N. S. and is an employee at the QEII, V.G. site, Unit 11A Operating Room.

Ethel’s nomination came from Deborah Garner, MN, RN Health Services Manager, V. G. Operating Rooms.

Ethel took her Operating Room technicians course in 1997 and has worked in this advanced role since then. Within her OR routine, Ethel takes every advantage to interact with patients prior to going for surgery. She remains a strong advocate for patients in the OR and safety is always a priority. She is very conscientious and continually seeks new opportunities. Ethel is our most consis-

tent and willing preceptors for new staff and perioperative learners. She consistently accepts preceptor responsibilities. She is very knowledgeable and works very hard at being an excellent preceptor, always professional.

Garner states, “she was honored to nominate Ethel. Ethel is an exceptional nurse and teacher and a valued member of our perioperative team. Ethel is, by far, a much respected member of our team”.

Did you ever ...

- Wonder about how to contact CLPNNS
- Want to view CORE CLPNNS documents
- Want to view CLPNNS By-laws
- Want to view CLPNNS Registration Policies
- Want to see pre-recorded Telehealth sessions
- Want to know the process for Professional Conduct
- Want to see the last Newsletter or Annual Report
- Want information on nominating a fellow LPN for an Award/or sit on the Board
- Want to find other health related websites
- Check out CLPNNS website www.clpnns to get answers to your questions
- Want to know how to register for NurseOne

Do we have your correct name and address and email address? If not, contact the office.

Congratulations are in Order!

Congratulations to the following CLPNNS Award Recipients from the following NSCC Campuses. They all received the 2008 Excellence in Student Clinical Practice Award(s).

Burridge Campus	Juanita Brannen
Marconi Campus	Tammy Sampson
Pictou Campus	Ashley Larkin and Vicki Nolan
Kingstec Campus	Rebecca MacKenzie
Waterfront Campus	Nancy Luedee

Professional Conduct

There were no professional conduct decisions this quarter.

You Asked Us ...

Q: I am a LPN, working in a hospital. Recently a doctor’s medication order seemed inappropriate given the client’s diagnosis and plan of care. What is my responsibility? Do I have a professional responsibility to address this concern with the doctor?

A: Yes as a LPN you have a professional responsibility to address this, whether it is with the physician initially or through the Registered Nurse. Check the hospital policy or practice. A disagreement with an order is most effectively communicated by the RN or LPN who knows the client. If a finding or assessment is unclear and/or beyond the individual LPNs knowledge, skill or judgment, the LPN is required to consult with an RN.

A LPN who disagrees with a physician’s order and advocates for a change with the physician and/or in collaboration with the RN is acting in the client’s best interest.

Celebrating Nurses’ Week – May 11 – 17, 2008

“Think you know Nursing? ... Take a closer look.” CLPNNS congratulates all Nurses in Nova Scotia and in Canada. We hope the celebration of “Nurses Week” will linger with you and the people you care for.

Nominations for Board of Directors 2009 – 2011

Nomination forms for eligible LPNs to sit on the Board of CLPNNS will be mailed out in late August 2008. Nominations will include Region III (Halifax/ Dartmouth), Region IV (Pictou/ Colchester/Antigonish and Region V (Cape Breton). Nominations will be due at the College by 4:00 PM October 3, 2008. The procedure for Board elections is found in Section III of the LPN By-laws.

Annual Registration/ Re-licensing

Due date **October 31, 2008**

It will be soon be that time again to renew registration. Renewal forms will be sent out in August. Renewal for 2009 will run till October 31, 2008. Registration fee for 2009 remains at \$235.00.

Register early and have your name entered into an early-bird draw for (2) \$100.00 cash prize awards. Only those registered by October 3, 2008, 4:00 PM will be eligible.

Internationally Educated Health Care Professional (IEHP)

The first of 4 IEHP graduates of the LPN program graduated from the Waterfront Campus, and wrote their exam on May 21, 2008.



(L-R) Safi Bopaye Saidjon, Zarghone Hashemi, Sabina Grigoryan, Xiaowen Ge

Continuing Competency Profile ... Official Launch

The Continuing Competency Profile for LPNs in NS was officially launched at the AGM. It is now available for purchase. The profile outlines the required competencies of LPNs in NS. While no one LPN possesses all the competencies described in the profile, every LPN is required to ensure she/he has the LPN competency required in her/his practice area.

Intended uses for the profile include:

- A reference for self-assessment
- Direction to NSCC regarding curriculum components
- A guideline for developing continuing competency assessment tools and job descriptions
- A reference for employers, stakeholders and health human resource planning.

The LPN Competency Profile may be purchased for \$25.00 (\$50.00 non-members) includes postage by contacting CLPNNS office at 902 423-8517 or toll free 1 800 718-8517 or by sending an email to info@clpnns.ca

Professional Development

Canadian Association of Wound Care is hosting special theme meetings in Halifax on November 7-9th, 2008. For more information contact info@cawc.net.

Foot Care Conference

September 28 & 29th 2008
Holiday Inn, Robie Street, Halifax, NS
Cost \$175.00 (2 days)
\$125.00 (1 day)

For more information contact mary.mackay@cdha.nshealth.ca.

Do you have low back pain? **The School of Physiology** is currently conducting a study. If you are interested please contact Melissa at 494-1371 or mmckeon@dal.ca.

E-Learning is Coming Our Way!

On April 24, 2008, the Minister of Health, Chris d'Entremont announced the launch of "an e-Learning Program to give nurses (RNs and LPNs) throughout the province easier access to on-going clinical training". The e-Learning Program will be pilot tested over May & June at South Shore District Health Authority. For the complete press release check our website under "What's New".

To Contact Us

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"Today's Nurses at a Glance"

Earlier this year, CLPNNS in partnership with CRNNS launched a re-print of their brochure entitled Today's Nurses ... LPNs, RNs and NPs. This brochure was designed to help clarify the roles of nurses in our health care system.

Over 15,000 brochures have been circulated to community based clinics and health centers.

The cover and inside photos includes photos of "real" nurses from Nova Scotia and we would like to thank them for volunteering.

Josephine Muxlow, RN
Kate Mercer, RN
Sohani Welcher, RN NP
Doug Bungay, RN
Justin Bragg, LPN
Shirley Baird, LPN

Copies of this brochure are available at both Colleges and on their respective websites.

Highlights of Awards Banquet, Education Day and AGM

Hats off to another excellent Awards Banquet, Education Day and Annual General Meeting. The guest speaker at the Banquet, Cheryl Doiron, Deputy Minister of Health brought greetings from the government along with news of funding for an additional 180 LPN seats for September 2008. Awards of Excellence were awarded to two very inspiring LPNs, Tamara Ballard and Ethel Landry. The Education Day and AGM started with the keynote speaker, Chris Power, CEO, Capital Health providing an update re the transformation and creation of Our Promise at Capital Health and its' relationship to LPNs. Fran LeBlanc, RN, Mabel Burke, LPN and Tracey Fische, LPN, nurses at the NS Rehab spoke of their transformation to "full scope of practice" at the NS Rehab and the positive effect it had on nurses at the Rehab and finally Suzanne Kennedy, RN (CRNNS) and Jylene Simmons, LPN (CLPNNS), provided an opportunity to converse, "café style" as part of their presentation on "Interdisciplinary Practice Initiative". Overall it was an "awesome" day. Many of the participants left, stating, "I can't wait till next year". Below are a few pictures of both the evening and Education Day.

