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Update on the Proposed LPN to BScN Bridge

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (the College) wishes to provide an update with regard to the proposed LPN to BScN bridging program in light of the release of the renewed nursing strategy on May 12, 2015.

As part of the process around the renewed nursing strategy, a comprehensive review of the current BScN curriculum, format and process was completed. As a result, recommendations for improvement to the current BScN education process in Nova Scotia will be implemented. These changes will be put in to place in 2016. Click the link to read the full [Nursing Strategy Report](#).

Highlights of the new BScN program (once approved):

- Staggered start dates of September, Jan and May and as a result, stagger exit dates;
- Common first year of all non-nursing courses;
- Common curriculum framework to increase mobility around nursing programs;
- Common policy for entrance into the accelerated or fast track programs;
- Increased use of simulation labs;
- Better transition to practice experiences;
- 13 week consolidation experience at end of the program;
- Opportunity to specialise throughout the program, and;
- Common entry and progression requirements i.e., Grade 12 and at least 5 Academic courses of grade B (70%) or higher (60% in non-nursing courses).

Over the last two years, the College has been working with the Department of Health and Wellness, St. Francis Xavier University and Nova Scotia Community College with regard to the development of an LPN to RN bridging program. A great deal of effort was put forth to conduct a detailed analysis of the LPN and the existing RN programs. The intent of the analysis was to identify the gaps between the curriculums so that a bridging program may be designed to fill them.

While the Pathway Report presented a possible best option for an LPN to RN pathway under the existing curricula, changes to the BScN curriculum will require a different approach. However, it is important that you know that although the Nursing Strategy Report suggests changes in the BScN program is the first

priority, the work already completed has not been forgotten. This work will make any further analysis more efficient and effective.

Despite these new developments, there are some positive things to take away:

1. The College, along with the Departments of Health and Wellness and Advanced Education, remain committed to establishing a feasible approach to a fair and consistent recognition of prior learning and experience for qualified LPNs entering into any of the province's BScN programs.
2. The universities, while working through the details of the new BScN curriculum, will collaborate with the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) to determine the best way to respect and acknowledge the education and practice of LPNs coming into the BScN program.
3. The outcome expected is a common Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NSCC and the universities in relation to a Pathway from LPN to BScN.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Ann Mann RN MN, Executive Director-Registrar by phone at 902-423-8517 or email at ann@clpnns.ca.

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