

Why is the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) and the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) investigating the possibility of moving to one nursing regulator in NS?

The discussion about risks and benefits of a potential merger began as a result of an inquiry posed by a CLPNNS Board member who questioned whether or not the public could be better served by one unified nursing regulator versus the two existing bodies. Both organizations have similar mandates, perform similar regulatory functions in almost all facets of operations, and have the same stakeholders, which is why the boards of CLPNNS and CRNNS made the collective decision to engage in a feasibility study exploring the possibility of moving towards one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia.

When did you first share with members that you were undertaking this work?

We first contacted members letting them know both organizations were exploring the possibility of merging to one nursing regulator in October 2015. We communicated it again in January 2016, shared a survey for members to share their thoughts in February/March 2016 and included a message in our March 2016 newsletter.

What's a feasibility study?

It's a more in-depth collection of information that will help inform the eventual decision to be made about the viability of one existing nursing regulator in Nova Scotia. The study will help the boards of the CLPNNS and CRNNS determine if there are grounds to explore a joint venture.

When is a decision expected?

The boards of both regulators have set a deadline to gather information, analyze data, and discuss and ultimately make a decision by December 2016.

Who has the authority to make this decision?

The decision about whether or not to move to one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia is the ultimate responsibility of the governing bodies of both organizations, which is the CLPNNS Board and the CRNNS Council.

Can I provide feedback as a member? Will my voice be heard?

Yes, in February, we provided all members with the opportunity to participate in a survey that was sent via email. The public were also provided an opportunity to provide us with their feedback as were other stakeholders. All of this feedback will be considered by the boards of both organizations.

The roles of LPNs, RNs, and NPs are unique. Won't one nursing regulator further blur the lines between the different nurses in Nova Scotia?

The boards of CLPNNS and CRNNS are looking at a potential merge of the boards and staff members of the two organizations – not nursing roles. Licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and nurse practitioners each have their own distinct standards and scopes of practice and each play a unique role in health care.

Currently, there are two organizations that regulate three categories of nurses, which means that Nova Scotia already has a practical example of one nursing regulator that demonstrates how to successfully maintain the uniqueness of different categories of nurses.

Should I be worried about the security of my job as an LPN or RN?

No. As regulatory bodies, we are responsible to regulate the practice of our members to protect and serve the public interest in Nova Scotia. Our role is not – and has never been – to become involved in issues of employment. Licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and nurse practitioners work collaboratively as licensed health professionals and our analysis is to explore the risks and opportunities of collaborating as a potential unified regulator.

How can I learn more?

You can always reach out to us if you have any questions and we invite you to stay tuned to our emails and newsletters where we'll share all developments with you. Please feel free to email Shelley Farouse, Executive Assistant, at sfarouse@crnns.ca.