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# Press Release

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## **“Two Nursing Regulatory Bodies Move to Create One Nursing Regulator for Nova Scotians”**

October 4, 2016 (Halifax) – As the regulatory bodies for nurses in Nova Scotia, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) and the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) have a legacy and shared responsibility to protect and serve the public interest of Nova Scotians by regulating the practice of licensed practical nurses, and registered nurses and nurse practitioners, respectively.

The boards of each of the two nursing regulators in Nova Scotia recently independently voted to move towards the creation of one nursing regulator for the province. This work began as a result of an inquiry posed by a CLPNNS Public Representative who questioned if the public could be better served by one nursing regulator instead of two. One regulator will ultimately enable both organizations to join together to strengthen their commitment to Nova Scotians through an enhanced consistent, efficient and collaborative approach to nursing regulation.

“It’s a reality in health care today to see different categories of nurses working more collaboratively together within their own unique scopes of practice to provide the services Nova Scotians require,” says Jackie MacCallum, CLPNNS Board Chair. “This transition will mirror this trend. The colleges have worked collaboratively over the years and the move to one nursing regulator will bring together the boards and staff of each organization to enhance our work in public protection and create a single point of contact for Nova Scotians”.

This historic decision will involve a formal request to government to seek approval for new legislation, which will set a bold new direction for self-regulation in Nova Scotia that will lead to increased integration, alignment and coordination of nursing regulation.

“While the operations of the two regulators will merge to create one nursing regulator, each category of nurse – licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and nurse practitioners – will remain distinct as they are now,” explains Ruth Whelan, CRNNS Council President. “This means they will continue to work as they do now with their own standards, scopes of practice and unique roles within the profession of nursing, which is essential for our health care system in Nova Scotia.”

“Nova Scotia has always been a province that recognizes its challenges and embraces its opportunities,” says Anne-Marie DeLorey, CRNNS Public Representative. “In a time of economic restraint, the public has placed an additional onus on organizations to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and the boards see this as an opportunity to be innovative in how the regulator can provide programs and services.”

The decision of the boards, which comes after a year-long comprehensive analysis, was based on a shared understanding that those who access nurses in all practice settings, including nurses themselves, would be best served by the creation of one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia.

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