

Message from the Executive Director/Registrar

Welcome to the Fall edition of the CLPNNS newsletter. A lot of work in relation to the co-creation of one nursing regulator has happened throughout the summer and its fast pace is anticipated to continue into the fall. This work included consultation with members, the public and both provincial and national key stakeholders to hear what is current and important in relation to self-regulation. An update on what we heard will be available later this Fall. In the meantime, an update on the move to one nursing regulator is available in the newsletter, if you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to send them our way.

CLPNNS recently sent out a Call for Nominations to members in three districts to serve on the Board of Directors for 2018-2019. Please take the time to review the requirements and think about nominating either yourself or a colleague. I cannot think of a more exciting time to serve on the Board and to be an active part of the legislative process to create one nursing regulator.

Annual renewal is upon us and the portal is open. Please do not wait until the last minute to renew. A late administrative fee of \$50.00 will apply to those who register after October 15th. Last year more than 600 LPNs paid the late administrative fee. For those on payroll deduction, the option closed on September 11 at 4 p.m. Please contact your employer for information on how you will be refunded. Once again, the early bird gets the worm, as one lucky registrant will get their registration payment refunded if they renew by October 1.

Continuing Competence Program (CCP) Reminder

As you prepare to renew your registration for the 2018 licensing year you should be documenting a [reflective evaluation](#) of your 2017 learning plan and conducting a [self-assessment](#), including [identifying your learning goals for 2018](#).

You are required to complete the CCP requirements every year to be eligible for an active practicing LPN license. If you indicate on your 2018 renewal that you have not completed the CCP requirements, you will only qualify for a 90-day license. If you fail to complete the CCP requirements within the 90 days, your license will expire, you will move to inactive status and you will not be able to practice as an LPN. You cannot reactivate your license until you provide the College with verification you have completed the requirements.

Every January, a percentage of LPNs with an active practicing license, are randomly selected to participate in the [CCP validation process \(audit\)](#). If you are selected for the audit, you are notified by mail (regular or electronic) and you have 30 days to submit a photocopy of the previous year's completed learning plan. The College will conduct the next audit in January 2018 and will be reviewing learning plans from 2017.

It is important to remember learning goals need to be connected to your standards of practice and must be related to practical nursing. Not every learning goal is appropriate for the CCP. For example, some employer mandated annual learning requirements such as CPR, WHIMIS or hand hygiene may not meet the CCP requirements because they are too general and can apply to the general population. Learning goals must be specific to nursing practice and your learning needs.

Still have questions? Visit the [CCP section of our website](#) or email your questions to practiceconsultant@clpnns.ca.

Annual Licence Renewal Period

The 2018 licence renewal season is in full swing, and you have between now and October 15 to renew to guarantee that your licence will be processed by October 31 so you can work on November 1. A \$50.00 late fee will be applied to all renewal applications received after October 15. The online portal closes at 1 PM on October 31. If you do not submit your application before the portal closes, you will not be licensed and you will not be permitted to work. The online portal will open again effective November 1 at 8:30 AM.

Steps Required to Renew Your 2018 Active-Practising Licence

1. Complete all [Continuing Competence Program](#) (CCP) requirements.
2. Complete your licence renewal application on the [online portal](#).
3. Pay the licence renewal fee.
4. Check your licence status. You (and your employer) can verify your 2018 licensure status using the [Licence Verification](#) button on the College website to confirm that are able to legally work as a nurse on and after November 1.

Income Tax Receipts

You can print your income tax receipt from the online portal. When your renewal is complete, the receipt automatically appears in the Licence/Receipt tab of your Member Profile. Paper receipts are not sent.

Questions?

To learn more, visit the [licence renewal section of our website](#). If you have any questions, please contact us at info@clpnns.ca.

Current Email Address Required

A reminder that the legislation requires all active practicing LPNs to maintain their current addresses, including an e-mail address, with the College. A valid email address is required to complete the online renewal process and to receive important information about your practice. Please ensure your contact information is kept up to date on your Member Profile.

For updates, you can manage your profile with the [online portal](#), or contact Registration Services.

Don't Wait to Renew!

If you renew by October 1, you will automatically have your name entered to win the amount of your 2018 licence renewal fee. Register early to get entered in the draw!

Recommended Reading

In August, we became aware of a government issued class exemption of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) which now authorizes hospital employees, including nurses (licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and nurse practitioners), to directly administer medical cannabis to clients who are permitted to use it.

To reflect these changes, we've revised the [Caring for Clients Authorized to Use Medical Cannabis Practice Guideline](#). This document has replaced the July 6, 2017 guideline that was previously available on our website.

Make sure you review the guidelines as well as employer policies before administering or assisting in the administration of medical cannabis.

Creation of One Nursing Regulator: Speed Round!

The work to create one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia continued throughout the summer and we thought September would be a perfect time to catch you up to speed with a few highlights. Want to know how we spent our time and how progress is going? Check out the speed round of questions we asked of Ann and Sue to see what they've been up to.

1. September is here already but we know that you and your teams were busy this summer. What were you up to?

Ann: Where do we start? Legislation, legislation, legislation! There are a lot of moving parts to a project of this magnitude and everybody has gotten very skilled at juggling a lot of balls at the same time. This summer was no different but we really tried to focus our attention on preparing for the legislative pieces that are required as the foundation of any regulator.

2. You've said before that engaging with your stakeholders is important to both of you and your respective boards. How did that unfold this past summer?

Sue: We're really excited about this element of the work and grateful for the feedback we've received so far. Our goal is to provide opportunities for stakeholders to share their thoughts with us and we really lived that commitment this summer. Within the past few months alone we've reached out to Nova Scotians, our members, those who are part of the extended nursing community in this province and across Canada and key individuals who are considered experts in self-regulation nationally and internationally. We're in the process of compiling all of that information and making it available to all stakeholders next month. This is a process that we're proud of and one that will help us to create a strong regulator that will address the expectations the public has – and should have - of us as a nursing regulator.

3. Any outstanding survey results you'd like to share now?

Sue: Sure, we can give a sneak peek! Members of each college felt that 'accountability' was our top strength as regulators and they felt that we could most improve in the area of flexibility, which is important for us to know. This is just a sample of what we heard and we will have a full report to share in the weeks ahead. We received a lot of useful information that will be factored into our plans for the new regulator. We're pleased to say that we've got another engagement opportunity planned for later in the fall as well.

4. You've said that there's a lot of work to be done. Are things progressing as you'd expected?

Ann: Absolutely. We are still working towards development of a legislative proposal for government consideration. We're also continuing to work on operational aspects of the new nursing regulator with a possibility of seeing one nursing regulator in place in Nova Scotia in 2019. And all of this work is happening while we maintain our existing operations so it's been busy!

5. Anything else notable to add?

Ann: Yes! Our teams have met with the Department of Health and Wellness on a couple of occasions this summer to discuss the new government policy on self-regulation and how it will guide our work. They've been tremendously supportive in terms of outlining the process we have to follow so that's been of help to us.

Sue: We also had the pleasure of meeting with Denise Perret, the new Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness for the first time. We had an opportunity to brief the Deputy Minister on the work taking place to establish the new nursing regulator among other important things. We are pleased to report that the conversations were very positive and that the creation of one nursing regulator was very well received. It was a productive meeting and we're appreciative that the Deputy Minister was able to make time for us.

CLPNNS Board Call for Nominations

Are you looking for an opportunity to become more involved in your profession? Consider serving on the CLPNNS [Board of Directors](#) to help make decisions on behalf of the College, the profession and the public.

The Board makes decisions that are important to LPNs including strategic decisions about the overall direction of CLPNNS and the practice of LPNs. In addition, the Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that CLPNNS meets its mandate to protect the public. Licensed Practical Nurse Board members are selected through an [election](#) process and serve for a two-year period.

This fall the Board is looking for representatives from the following districts:

- District 1 (Bridgewater – Shelburne – Queens – Yarmouth)
- District 2 (Kentville – Annapolis – Digby)
- District 6 (Colchester – Cumberland)

The position will start on January 1, 2018 and end on December 31, 2019. However, please note that if legislation for [the move to one nursing regulator](#) is passed before December 31, 2019, the term may be shorter than two years.

Nominees should be prepared to attend a minimum of four Board meetings each year and approximately one or two committee meetings each year. Travel related expenses are reimbursed by CLPNNS.

The call for nominations closes on **October 6, 2017 at 3 P.M.** Please consider nominating someone or running for a Board position yourself. Elections will be held in November.

[Click here](#) for more information and to view the nomination form.

Award Ceremony Honours Outstanding Nurse Regulators

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Inc. (NCSBN) recognized its dedicated and exceptional membership and guests at its annual awards ceremony during the NCSBN Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly, held in Chicago in August.

Among those recognized was CLPNNS' executive director/ registrar, Ann Mann. She received a five-year service award.

Prepare Yourself for Influenza Season

In preparation for the 2017-2018 influenza season, we wanted to remind our members of the importance of yearly influenza immunization. It is expected that immunization providers in the province will have this year's influenza vaccine in the second week of October

As in previous years, all Nova Scotians aged six months and older will be eligible to receive the influenza vaccine. We highly encourage all LPNs to get the flu shot. Vaccination is the single most effective way to prevent the flu. It helps Nova Scotians avoid getting the flu themselves, and avoid spreading it to family, friends, co-workers and people in their care such as patients in health and long-term care facilities.

New Bilingual LPN Program Kicks Off

Best wishes to new candidates for Université Saint-Anne's bilingual LPN program. The program started September 7. We expect new graduates from the program in 2019.



Frequently Asked Questions

My employer has asked me to come in for a shift, however I am not scheduled am I responsible under the Duty to Provide Care?

The [Duty to Provide Care](#) is the requirement for an LPN to provide safe, competent, ethical and compassionate care in accordance with the [Standards of Practice](#) and [Code of Ethics](#) to a client or clients within a defined period of time (entire shift or intermittent assignment within a shift).

The duty starts when the assignment is accepted and can arise before any interaction with clients. Once accepted, the LPN has a duty to commence, continue and be available for care until this duty is transferred, assumed or shared with another care provider with the knowledge, skill and judgement to do so.

As much as the LPN has a responsibility to the accepted shifts and following the established employer policies and guidelines, the employer also has a responsibility to ensure adequate staffing is in place. In doing so, the employer must also ensure the resources and supports are in place that allows the LPN to meet their Standards of Practice.

In this example, under the Duty to Provide Care the nurse is not obligated to cover any extra shifts as s/he has not assumed the assignment.

I have been hearing a lot about medical cannabis lately. Will this have any impact on my practice?

CLPNNS and CRNNS have developed a practice guideline that provides the most up-to-date information on the Federal legislation and the impact this has on daily practice for nurses. Please read the [Practice Guideline: Caring for Clients Authorized to Use Medical Cannabis](#).

When providing care to clients who are using or are interested in using medical cannabis (marijuana), you are accountable to follow your standards of practice and code of ethics, specifically relating to:

- respecting client diversity;
- respecting a client's right to informed consent;
- optimizing the client's role in decision-making and the care process; and,
- advocating for and following appropriate organizational policy.

Have a question or looking for more information? Email a practice consultant at practiceconsultant@clpnns.ca. [Click here](#) to see other recently answered Frequently Asked Questions.

A New Look: The FAQ Section of the CLPNNS Website Has Been Revamped

The FAQ section of the CLPNNS website has been revamped to be more user-friendly. FAQs are now arranged by topic to make it easier for you to find the answers to your practice questions. [Click here](#) to look at the new page.

For Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) Waiting to Write the CPNRE:

Pathway to Success for IENs

CLPNNS and NSCC are pleased to offer a free prep course to help Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) understand the role of the LPN in Nova Scotia and assist them in preparing for the National Exam (CPNRE).

The next workshop dates are:

December 11 & 12

December 18 & 19

For those eligible to write the LPN national exam (CPNRE), the next exam writing window is:

January 29 to February 18

Funding to support this initiative is through the Labour Market Agreement, Nova Scotia Department of Immigration.

For more information contact Katherine Sullivan at 1-902-423-9280 or katherine@clpnns.ca

Yardstick Acquires Assessment Strategies Inc.

Yardstick Testing and Training has acquired Assessment Strategies Incorporated (ASI) as of July 5, 2017. ASI has been the Canadian Practical Nurses Registration Exam (CPNRE) exam provider for several years. The new organization is called Yardstick Assessment Strategies Inc. (YASI). We look forward to working with YASI as our exam provider moving forward.

We want to let you know that the exam and exam processes will not be changing because of this announcement and you can expect business as usual.

[Click here](#) to read the news release from Yardstick.

If you have any questions, please send us an email at info@clpnns.ca.



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