



College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia Elections for the Board of Directors

Introduction

The *Licensed Practical Nurse Act, 2006* grants the practical nursing profession in Nova Scotia the privilege of self-regulation. Through the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (the College) licensed practical nurses (LPNs) set requirements for entry into the profession, establish, promote and enforce standards of practice and conduct and ensure safe, competent care to clients through the continuing competence requirements of its' members.

Every LPN in the province is an important contributor to self-regulation. Licensed practical nurses support and contribute to self-regulation by adhering to their standards of practice and conduct in practice and by participating in the Continuing Competence Program. Participation on the College Board of Directors or on a College Committee is another important way LPNs can be involved in self-regulation and shape the future of the practical nursing profession.

College Committees

Every year the College puts a call out to Licensed Practical Nurses in good standing who are interested in serving on a College committee(s). Participating in the activities of the College is an important element of being a self-regulated professional.

Committee appointments are typically for a two (2) year period commencing in February in even years but may be less. Re-appointments are possible. Time commitment to committee or review work is variable and dependent upon the nature of the work itself. For more information about College committees, go to <http://clpnns.ca/get-involved-and-become-a-college-committee-member/#sthash.3b80oNBg.dpuf> .

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the College makes decisions that are important to the practical nursing profession, licensed practical nurses and the College's mandate of public protection. Board members may come from all contexts of practice and are committed to the public's right to safe, effective and ethical nursing care. They bring their professional expertise and an understanding of today's realities to their decision making.

The Board approves changes to entry-to-practice requirements, standards of practice and conduct and other policies, processes or supports that impact the profession. Individual board members may be asked to provide direction or input or participate on various College committees. The term of office of a Board member is two (2) years. Members may serve one additional term. For more information about the Board of Directors, go to <http://clpnns.ca/board-directors/>.

Nominations

Licensed Practical nurses interested in serving on the Board of Directors must be first nominated for, and then elected by their peers to, the position. Each LPN board member represents one of the six (6) electoral districts. (Go to <http://clpnns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Electoral-Districts.pdf> to view a map of the electoral districts.) It is important to understand that LPNs are selected to the Board to represent *the profession of practical nursing* and not the individual LPNs of their districts.

Elections are held in every other district every two (2) years (staggered across odd and even years). A by-election may occur to replace a member who resigns their position before the completion of the term. Every fall, the College sends out a *Call for Nominations* to every member in the electoral region seeking nominations. The *Call for Nominations* is sent out electronically via email.

Candidate Eligibility

Candidates seeking and accepting a nomination must meet eligibility criteria. Candidates must:

- be actively registered;
- be actively employed in practical nursing;
- reside in the electoral district for which they are seeking nomination, and;
- be in good standing with the College.

For the full list of eligibility criteria go to, <http://clpnns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/By-laws-Dec-2013-.pdf>.

Expectations of Elected Members

As members of the College, Board members are expected to have an understanding of current nursing practice. There are also other specific expectations that Board members should be prepared to meet. These include:

- making decisions in accordance with College's mission, vision and mandate of public interest and safety;
- arranging schedules to meet time commitments;
- reviewing materials in advance of meetings;

- participating in discussion and decision making; and
- maintaining confidentiality.

Elections

Board Members are chosen by vote and elections take place through the mail. Once candidates have been identified, every LPN in possession of an active practicing license residing in the electoral district is mailed a brief candidate biography and 1 ballot. Members mark their ballot and return it to the College by mail in the pre-addressed electoral specific envelop. Ballots that are returned without their pre-addressed envelope will not be considered. Duplicate or replacement ballots are not available. Candidates who are unopposed in districts are elected by acclimation and no ballot is sent to the LPN population in that district.

Ballots returned to the College office remain unopened until the voting period closes. Once closed, the Executive Director/Registrar supervises the tabulation of results and notifies the current Board chair and each candidate of the results.

Self-Regulation

Voting in the election is an important way that each LPN can participate in self-regulation. It is an opportunity to promote the profession of practical nursing and impact the decisions that affect safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing practice.

Reference

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (2013). *College Bylaws*. Halifax, NS: Author.