

Creation of One Nursing Regulator

Updated Questions and Answers

1. What is the latest development in terms of the progress of the new regulator?

A draft Act was submitted to government on February 12th, 2018 and both Colleges are prepared and available to respond to the Government's inquiries as the draft Act moves through the government processes and eventually onward to the Legislature. The Colleges were especially pleased to have submitted a draft Act that incorporates the feedback received through stakeholder consultation.

The focus for 2018 is now turning to the operational strategy required to create the new organization.

2. Couldn't you just have maintained the two Acts as they were? Why did you need to create a brand new one?

CLPNNS receives authority through the LPN Act and CRNNS receives their authority separately through the RN Act. In order to create one nursing regulator for Nova Scotia, CLPNNS and CRNNS have had to request government to pass a new Act to create the new organization and governing body. Upon proclamation of the new Act, CLPNNS and CRNNS will dissolve to make way for the new regulator and the new Act will replace and repeal the existing LPN Act and RN Act. This step is absolutely required for the creation of one nursing regulator and it has created a unique opportunity to create a new Act that is nimble, relevant and enabling.

3. How did you determine your approach to development of the new Act and what changes would be made?

The Colleges used the principles of right-touch regulation, as used by the Professional Standard Authority as a benchmark. The right-touch regulation principles maintain that a regulator should be proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent, targeted and agile. We gathered feedback from stakeholders who told us that the principles of accountability, consistency and transparency were where we should pay particular attention.

4. What can we expect from the legislation? What's new?

The changes we've proposed to the legislation are changes that:

- a. allow the creation of one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia, giving one body the authority to regulate all nursing designations in our province,
- b. Ensure that the public interest is maintained as the new regulator's top priority,
- c. Enable the new regulator to remain current, relevant and nimble.

For a walk-through of the concepts proposed in the new Act, we suggest you check out a recording of our December 6th [town-hall event](#).

5. So, what can we expect to see maintained in the new legislation?

There was a lot within the existing legislation for CLPNNS and CRNNS that did not require any changes. Most notably, the new Act will continue to address key elements of self-regulation and maintain the following:

- a. existing nursing designations of LPN, RN and NP, and the associated title protections
- b. distinct and separate scopes of practice and entry-to-practice requirements for each designation
- c. any program approval in place immediately prior to proclamation of new Act.

6. Do you know when you're expecting to formally become one body?

The new organization will receive its authority through the proclamation of new legislation, which is subject to government review and approval. This is an independent government process that requires time. We are hoping that one nursing regulator could be a reality in Nova Scotia in early 2019.

7. How have members participated in the creation of one nursing regulator? Are you listening to what you're being told?

Stakeholder consultation has been of significant importance to the CLPNNS Board, CRNNS Council and the leadership of each College. The Colleges have created numerous consultation opportunities for stakeholders to participate in, dating back to 2015. These include third-party surveys, a live-stream town hall event, face-to-face focus groups and telephone interviews.

We consider all of the feedback received from our stakeholders important and we have reviewed all comments provided to us. The input from those who have shared their thoughts has been influential in the development of legislation and is helping to shape the future regulator in Nova Scotia. That's something we're incredibly proud of.

[Download a copy of our fall consultation report here.](#)

8. Will there be more opportunities to provide feedback in the future?

Absolutely. There is still a lot of work ahead of us along the journey to create one nursing regulator and we don't consider ourselves on this journey alone. We will continue to provide stakeholders with opportunities to shape the future of one nursing regulator and will share more details with you when we have them. But stay tuned to our websites and College newsletters and emails for the latest!

9. What is happening to our fees?

No operational decisions have been made at this time, which means that it's too early to know what impact – if any – this change could have on licensing fees. We are committed to keeping all members informed about all important changes, including changes to fee structures if they occur.

10. Are your offices moving?

Yes, we're working on that! With the creation of one regulator, it will no longer be necessary for the staff of each College to occupy separate office buildings. As a result, we are looking for one location that will allow the joint staff to work more collaboratively together. While that process has begun, we don't know when we will be in one location or where that location might be but we will share that information with all stakeholders once decisions are made.



College of
**REGISTERED NURSES
OF NOVA SCOTIA**
Setting the Standard for Care.