
Q&A Document

Why was the decision made to move towards one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia?

The discussion about the feasibility of a potential merger, including risks and benefits, 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 co-creating one nursing regulator. 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. After much analysis, it was determined that co-creating one nursing regulator would enhance the regulators' work in the public interest.

How will creating one nursing regulator be an improvement for Nova Scotia?

Both CLPNNS and CRNNS have a strong legacy and shared responsibility to protect and serve the public interest of Nova Scotians by regulating the practice of LPNs, RNs, and NPs, respectively. Co-creating one nursing regulator will allow for one point of contact for members of the public and a more enhanced efficient, coordinated and consistent means to carry out our regulatory functions. It lends itself to a more holistic approach to nursing regulation for Nova Scotians.

What's happening next and what role does government play in the decision?

While it is still early in the process, immediate action will be taken to establish board and operational advisory groups to work on future planning that will include setting deliverables and establishing milestones, including a formal request to government to seek approval for new legislation to form one nursing regulator.

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 decision involves the merging 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. Roles will not change as a result of one body now regulating the nursing profession.

Will my nursing fees go up?

We are still in the very early stages of this decision and no operational decisions have been made at this time. As a result, it is too early to know what impact – if any – a potential merger 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.



Who has the authority to make this decision?

The decision about whether or not to move to one nursing regulator in Nova Scotia was the ultimate responsibility of the governing bodies of both regulatory colleges/organizations, which is the CLPNNS Board and the CRNNS Council. This will include a formal request to government to seek approval for new legislation to form one nursing regulator.

Were members provided an opportunity to provide feedback? How will my voice be heard?

Yes. In addition to regular communications, 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. All stakeholders will be able to provide feedback into the creation of the nursing regulator moving forward and a survey was recently sent via email to LPNs, NPs and RNs across the province.

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

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 self-regulated health professionals.

How can I learn more?

Please review the [briefing document](#) for more detailed information and don't forget to take part in our latest [survey](#). You can also 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 CRNNS Council President, Ruth Whelan at president@crnns.ca and CLPNNS Board Chair, Jackie MacCallum at boardchair@clpnns.ca.