

**Nurse Practitioner
Consultative and Approvals
Committee**

Activity Plan

2008 -2011

Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to provide the 2008-2011 Activity Plan for the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) in accordance with the requirements of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 Government Entity. In the development of this plan careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of government, as communicated by the responsible minister (See Appendix A).

This Activity Plan provides an overview of the NPCAC and identifies key objectives to be accomplished during the first year of the period covered by this plan. In 2008, new legislation, *An Act Respecting Registered Nurses*, was passed in the House of Assembly to replace the existing *Registered Nurses Act*. This new Act will transfer responsibility for the NPCAC from the Province to the Association for Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL) and the legislative requirements under the new *Act Respecting Registered Nurses* will apply. The NPCAC will continue to meet the Transparency and Accountability requirements until advised that planning and reporting under this Act are no longer required.

As Acting Chairperson of the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee, my signature below represents the entire Committee's accountability for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the specific objectives contained therein.

Anita Ludlow
Acting Chairperson

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1.0 Overview

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are registered nurses with additional educational preparation and experience who are licensed to practice as a nurse practitioner under the *Act Respecting Registered Nurses*. Under *The Act*, Nurse Practitioners have a more independent practice than registered nurses. Nurse Practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador may be licensed as either NP Primary Health Care (NP-PHC) or NP Specialists (NP-S).

Nurse Practitioners Primary Health Care work in collaboration with primary care physicians and other members of the collaborative team. NPs-PHC provide health promotion, illness prevention and supportive, curative and rehabilitative care. They are generalists who manage health conditions that are within the NP scope of practice. In this Province, they work in community clinics, emergency departments, acute care programs, institutional long term care, mental health and other appropriate settings.

Nurse Practitioner Specialists (NP-S) practice health care management for a specific client population usually in a tertiary, acute care setting. The client population may be defined based on the medical diagnostic grouping, the client's age/development stage or the client's health problem. The parameters of their scope of practice are established in practice protocols as provided for in the *Registered Nurses Act* and *Nurse Practitioner Regulations*.

The Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee derives its authority from *The Registered Nurses Act* and is constituted for the purpose of advising the Minister of Health and Community Services, the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador and the province's Regional Health Authorities on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulatory framework. The current Committee is appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services and serves a three year mandate.

The current Committee membership is defined in the legislation and consists of health care professionals and administrators including representation from the three principle professions: pharmacy, medicine and nursing. The first committee was appointed in 2003 and completed its term as of January 2006 (See Appendix B) and the current committee membership is provided below:

Committee Members	Committee Members
David Tucker LGRHA, Chair (Retired)	Donna Best MUN School of Nursing
Betty Lundrigan ARNNL	Jill Squires Bruneau NP-S
Margot Priddle, NLPh Board	Angela Pelley, NP-PHC
Dr. Barbara Grandy College of Physicians & Surgeons	Christine Bugden Public Representative, NP - PHC
Marcy Greene Centre for Nursing Studies	Heather McAllister Public Representative
Lydia Hatcher, Family Physician, NLMA	Anita Ludlow, DHCS (Acting Chair)

Contact Information for this Committee follows:

D. Elizabeth Lundrigan RN, MN, Chairperson Elect
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 Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL)
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 Department of Health & Community Services
 Confederation Building
 P.O. Box 8700
 St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Committee Processes

Two face to face meetings will be held annually and supplemented with teleconference meetings as required. Standing and ad hoc subcommittees will be created to meet workload demands and deal with specific concerns as they arise.

Decisions of the NPCAC are made by majority vote provided that the three principle parties named under the legislation vote in concert with the majority vote.

Committee expenses are minimal as any costs, travel or other, are covered by the organization that the individual represents.

2.0 Mandate

The Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL) was established in 1954 as the provincial body for nursing in this Province. Its objectives are to advance and promote the ethical and professional standards of the nursing profession, to promote proficiency and competency in the nursing profession, and to encourage its members to participate in activities promoting the health and well-being of the public. The ARNNL is governed by a volunteer Council of 10 registered nurses, who are elected by the membership, and four members, who are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services. The goals and policies established by the Council, in accordance with the legislation, provide direction to the Association's executive director and staff. (For more information, please visit the website at www.arannl.nf.ca.)

Under the previous Registered Nurses Act, the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) was established to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services, the ARNNL Council and the province's regional health boards on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulations contained in *The RN Act*. Under the new *Registered Nurses Act 2008*, the NPCAC becomes the Nurse Practitioner Standards Committee (Section 37). The primary purpose of the Committee remains as facilitating effective, safe nurse practitioner practice through the establishment of standards and approval of practice protocols.

3.0 Primary Client

The primary client of the current Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) is the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Community Services. The Committee advises the Minister of Health and Community Services, the ARNNL Council and the province's regional health boards on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulations contained in *The RN Act*.

4.0 Values

The NPCAC has adopted the Department's values. These values are incorporated in daily activities and are present in the overall activities of the entity. They include:

Collaboration

Each person engages actively with partners.

Fairness

Each person uses a balance of evidence for equity in decision making.

Privacy

Each person manages and protects information related to persons/families/organizations/communities and the department appropriately.

Respect

Each person provides opportunities for others to express their opinions in an open and safe environment.

Transparency in decision making

Each person is forthcoming with all information related to decision making except where prohibited by legislation.

Excellence

Each person performs to the best of their ability, and within available resources.

5.0 Vision

The Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee supports the vision of the Department of Health and Community Services and the vision of the ARNNL.

“The vision of the Department of Health and Community Services is for individuals, families and communities to achieve optimal health and well being.”

“The vision of ARNNL is “excellence in nursing”, which includes the four domains of practice, administration, research and education.

The NPCAC contributes to these visions by making it possible for registered nurses to advance their practice as nurse practitioners in a collaborative and independent manner that maximizes available resources to meet the health care needs of citizens and communities.

6.0 Mission

The 2008-2011 NPCAC activity plan supports the Department’s strategic direction of improved accountability and stability within health and community services by providing more appropriate accountability for nursing practice, increased citizen access to health services through the introduction of nurse practitioners in new practice areas, and more effective use of resources in the health and community services system.

By March 31, 2011, the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) will have facilitated effective, safe nurse practitioner practice through the establishment of standards and practice protocols as prescribed in *The Registered Nurses Act 2008*

Measure: Facilitated safe effective nurse practitioner practice

Indicators:

- Supported the introduction of new legislative for registered nurses, that is inclusive of nurse practitioners
- Facilitated the transfer of approvals for and the development of specialty nurse practitioner standards and practice protocols to the ARNNL
- Responsibility for NPCAC rests with the ARNNL

7.0 Objectives

Due to the new legislation receiving royal assent in 2008, the following objectives are written with the understanding that the 2008-09 year will be a transition year for the NPCAC. Activity will focus on facilitating the transfer of responsibility to ARNNL and on continued support and development related to the professional practice of nurse practitioners within the Province. These objectives will support more appropriate accountability for nursing practice, increased citizen access to services and more effective use of resources in the health and community services system.

Objective 2008-2009

By March 31, 2009 the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee will have completed the transfer of responsibility from the NPCPC as a government entity reporting to the Department of Health and Community Services to the ARNNL.

Measure

- Transfer process completed

Indicators

- Transition plan implemented
- Existing and new committee members introduced to the ARNNL and the future functioning of the Committee
- Shared processes will be developed between NPCAC and ARNNL for monitoring the implementation of the new legislation and the review of regulations governing the scope of practice and standards for nurse practitioner practice.
- Continued review and approval of nurse practitioner specialist standards and practice protocols.
- Produced annual reports on the status of regulations as per *Transparency and Accountability Act* and/or ARNNL legislative requirements.

Objective 2009-2010

By March 31, 2010, NPCAC will have evaluated the transition plan for the effective transfer of responsibility from NPCAC to the ARNNL.

Objective 2010-2011

By March 31, 2011, the NPCAC will have fully integrated NPCAC functions into the Nurse Practitioner Standards Committee of ARNNL.

8.0 Appendix A: Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction Title: Improved accountability and stability of health and community services

Outcome: Improved sustainability of health and community services

Strategic Direction Statement:

The health and community services system in Newfoundland and Labrador is moving towards a more integrated model of governance and service coordination with four Regional Health Authorities. Government and public bodies must be accountable to ensure the wise and prudent use of public resources and demonstrate performance achievements. This requires quality information, including best practice models for service management and delivery, for both decision-making and reporting in the health and community services system.

Nurses are key service providers and managers in the health care system. Innovative practices and initiatives, such as nurse practitioners, are required to meet increasing service delivery and population health needs. This requires legislative, administrative, financial and organizational support. The 2008-2011 NPCAC activity plan will support more appropriate accountability for nursing practice, increased citizen access to services and more effective use of resources in the health and community services system.

Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is/was
	In the entity's activity plan
Stabilize human resources	X

Note: For a complete version of the Department's strategic directions, contact the Department of Health and Community Services Tel: 709-729-4984 or email: healthinfo@gov.nl.ca or visit <http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/>

Appendix B: The Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee Membership 2003-2006:

Committee Members	Committee Members
John Budgell, GRHS, Chair (Resigned September 2005)	Donna Best, MUN School of Nursing
Betty Lundrigan, ARNNL	Jill Squires Bruneau, NP-S (On leave of absence for 2006-2007)
Margot Priddle, NPhA	Anthony Richards, NP-PHC
Vinod Patel, NLMB (Replaced by Dr. Barbara Grandy)	Dorothy Johnson, CWHB (Deceased)
Marcy Greene, Centre for Nursing Studies	Kevin Melvin, Cardiac Surgeon
Lydia Hatcher, Family Physician	Lori Marshall, Public Representative
Reginald Coates, DHCS (Replaced by Karen Stone 2006)	