

October 10, 2023

BURNABY, BC- The Association of Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) is pleased to welcome Bernice Budz, MSN, RN, CNCC, ARNP to the role of Chief Executive Officer beginning November 27, 2023.

"Bernice comes with a depth of experience across all nursing domains that will serve NNPBC well as we continue to grow. Bernice is well-respected as a nurse leader, has an in-depth understanding of the work of a professional association and is a passionate advocate for the profession.", said Sherri Kensall, NNPBC Board Chair. "We are so fortunate to get to work with Bernice and, on behalf of the entire Board, our Councils and of course our staff, we welcome Bernice and know that she will foster the growth of the Association in new and exciting ways."

Bernice's diverse career has taken her across North America. She obtained her MSN from the UBC School of Nursing, her Adult Nurse Practitioner degree in the United States and has worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Critical Care. Her clinical practice career has been notable for her work in launching numerous 'firsts', such as co-creating the cardiac assist device program at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Washington, as the first Clinical Nurse Specialist in Cardiac Care in BC, and she also led the program development of the Heart Transplant Program at St. Paul's Hospital. Through her work on Boards of Directors, she was involved in the development of the first Canadian Critical Care Certification Exam and has also held positions in education, serving as Interim Dean of the School of Health Sciences at British Columbia Institute of Technology having previously served as its Associate Dean for the BSN Nursing Program. Bernice also held the position of BC Cancer's Vice President of Patient Experience & Interprofessional Practice, overseeing all areas of oncology nursing as well as supportive care, including psychiatry, counseling, nutrition, therapy, and social work. Most recently she served as the Executive Director for the Midwives Association of BC.

Her research work has been focused on improving systems and processes to better serve patients and improve the quality of work for nurses. Additional research has been focused on smoking cessation, supporting cardiac care standards, and organ donation in critical care. Bernice has also been the proud recipient of many awards such as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses, and the UBC School of Nursing's Centenary Award.

"It is a privilege to be joining NNPBC as the new CEO. I am excited by this opportunity and look forward to using all my skills to work with the nurses of BC and with our partners to shape a vision of nursing that is innovative, forward thinking, and patient centred. I know how important the work of the professional association is and feel strongly that the power of nursing must be harnessed if we are to affect system change.", noted Bernice. "I have great confidence in the nurses of this province to continue to shape policy with a strong solutions-oriented approach and I am delighted to lead a team of people who also possess a passion and commitment for nursing."

On behalf of the NNPBC Board of Directors

For questions, please contact: [Alix Arndt](#), Acting CEO/COO.