



May 2023

The Association of Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) would like to provide clarity as it relates to a letter sent to Primary Care Network (PCN) contracted nurse practitioners in March 2023. Two important issues have come to our attention: preceptorship and the management and maintenance of complex patient caseloads (panels).

NNPBC is a complex organization, representing all of BC's nursing designations, each with distinct needs and concerns and as such our work is varied and nuanced. One such aspect of the work relates to negotiations around PCN contracted NPs. As we all understand, negotiations can be highly sensitive. It was during this ongoing negotiation that the letter was sent providing an update on a proposed contract.

The letter was written to highlight the *impact* of the proposed contract for PCN NPs. Simply put, it is unrealistic to expect that NPs maintain excessive caseloads of patients who are increasingly complex, meet the critical education needs of NPs and medical students, *and* ensure they are meeting the needs of patients. We know that NPs are uniquely suited to care for those patients whose health is impacted by the social determinants of health and that many of these individuals require extensive assessment, diagnosis, counselling, and collaboration with community partners to address their needs. For our most vulnerable community members, quality in care must be more important than quantity.

To be exceedingly clear, NNPBC supports students across all designations and the mentors and preceptors who offer their time and expertise. Preceptorships are integral to ensuring that student nurses and nurse practitioners build the skills and competencies necessary for safe, ethical, and quality practice and serve as a cornerstone of support for future nurses and nurse practitioners. We recognize the challenges for PCN NPs in managing complex patient panels and endorse an approach that promotes nurse practitioners to continue their excellent patient centred care for complex patients.

This work aligns with NNPBC's mission and vision. Our primary mandate is to influence health care by supporting nursing professionals across the system so that British Columbians receive the exceptional care they deserve.

Thank you to all who reached out to us for clarity. I am appreciative of your candour and welcome ongoing discussions. Most of all, I value your collective commitment to the myriad ways nurses and nurse practitioners positively influence the health of British Columbians (and beyond)!

Sincerely,

Sherri Kensall
Board Chair, NNPBC