



NURSE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Dear CBC and Michael Gorman,

We are writing to bring attention to an essential aspect of healthcare in Nova Scotia that often goes under-recognized — the role of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) as the most responsible providers in primary health care. As an advocate for the ongoing development of primary care services, I believe it is crucial to highlight the immense value NPs bring to our communities, particularly in a province where access to timely, high-quality healthcare remains a challenge.

Nurse Practitioners in Nova Scotia are licensed to provide comprehensive care to patients, with full autonomy in diagnosing, treating, and managing a wide range of health conditions. NPs are highly trained and skilled professionals who possess both advanced clinical knowledge and the ability to build long-term, trusting relationships with their patients.

Nurse Practitioners provide the same exceptional level of primary and specialty care that Nova Scotian residents rely on; offering a wide range of services from preventive health to acute care management. In fact, evidence has shown that NPs are able to reduce wait times, improve patient satisfaction, and ensure continuity of care—all while relieving some of the burden on our overextended hospitals and medical clinics.

Furthermore, NPs contribute to a holistic approach to health, recognizing the importance of mental health, chronic disease management, and social determinants of health in the overall well-being of individuals. By offering a wide range of services in primary care settings, Nurse Practitioners ensure that Nova Scotians receive timely, personalized, and comprehensive health services that foster a greater sense of community health and well-being.

As healthcare providers at the forefront of patient care, Nurse Practitioners should be recognized not just for their roles as clinicians, but as leaders in promoting a more equitable and sustainable healthcare system. Nurse Practitioners have reduced the “doctors wait list” removing over 9000 patients alongside physicians from the Need a Family Practice Registry and continue to see patients on the registry to provide access to health care. Nurse Practitioners have numerous ideas for effectively



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addressing the shortage of healthcare providers and are eager to take on this responsibility.

We urge your organization to give more attention to the expanding contributions of NPs in Nova Scotia and to explore the tremendous benefits of their presence in primary health care. Some of these contributions include work in mobile clinics, community pharmacy primary care clinics, and after hours care clinics. We kindly request that you release this statement to the news to recognize the valuable contributions Nurse Practitioners are making in today's healthcare landscape.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I hope that you will consider this in your coverage of healthcare topics and look forward to seeing the valuable impact of Nurse Practitioners more widely acknowledged across our province.

Sincerely,

Nurse Practitioner Association of Nova Scotia