



# NURSE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

## Your Honorable Premier Houston

From: Nurse Practitioner Association of Nova Scotia (NPANS)

RE: Face Book Post June 15 – Updated on Need a Family Practice Registry

Date: June 15, 2025

Dear Honorable Tim Houston,

The Nurse Practitioners Association of Nova Scotia (NPANS) respectfully requests that your public communications regarding the Need a Family Practice Registry be updated to accurately reflect the critical role of Nurse Practitioners (NPs).

We are concerned that repeated public statements continue to emphasize your government's efforts to recruit and retain only Family Physicians, without acknowledging that Nova Scotians on the registry are assigned to either a Family Physician *or* a Nurse Practitioner. This omission misrepresents the true composition of the primary care workforce and the vital role that NPs play in delivering high-quality care across the province.

To be clear, NPANS does not dispute that your government is taking steps to increase the number of Family Physicians in Nova Scotia. However, the continued lack of recognition for Nurse Practitioners—who are successfully reducing the number of individuals on the registry—is concerning.

There are currently approximately **470 Nurse Practitioners** practicing in Nova Scotia, with **about 170 working in Primary Care settings**. Each of these Primary Care NPs serves as the Most Responsible Health Care Provider (MRHP) for roughly **800 patients**. It is important to recognize that **approximately 136,000 Nova Scotians who are not on the registry receive their primary health care from Nurse Practitioners**. These patients benefit from timely, comprehensive, and expert care.

Despite this, Nurse Practitioners remain noticeably absent from government messaging and promotion. Family Physicians, pharmacists, and Physician Assistants have all been highlighted in recent communications and recruitment efforts. We respectfully ask: why are Nurse Practitioners continually excluded from this narrative?

We urge you and your government to recognize and support Nurse Practitioners as essential members of the health care system.



## NURSE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

We respectfully request a meeting with you, Premier Houston, and NPANS leadership to explore strategic opportunities to strengthen the role of Nurse Practitioners, who have been recognized by the Federal Government as essential primary care providers under the Canada Health Act. NPANS has developed proposals outlining how Nurse Practitioners can play an integral role in reducing the waitlist for the Need a Family Practice Registry.

Finally, we ask that you **publicly acknowledge** Nurse Practitioners as highly skilled, autonomous health care providers who are already making a measurable impact in reducing the number of Nova Scotians on the Need a Family Practice Registry—and who are poised to do even more with the appropriate support.

Sincerely,

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President

Nurse Practitioners Association of Nova Scotia (NPANS)