

B.C. HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION

WHAT IS THE B.C. HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

The B.C. Health Education Foundation was established in April 2006 to fund enhanced educational activities for Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs).

WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR LPNs THROUGH THE B.C. HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

As a result of policy discussions with the Facilities Bargaining Association (FBA) during the 2006 round of bargaining, \$3.5 million was specifically earmarked for LPNs over the four-year collective agreement. This amounts to \$875,000 in LPN specialty, post-basic and continuing education in each of the next four years.

The annual allotment will be divided among the health authorities (Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal will each receive 20 per cent of the Fund; the Interior, Northern, Vancouver Island, and Provincial will each receive 15 per cent).

The Chief Nursing Officers in each health authority are expected to identify the areas of LPN education, the rationale for these priorities, and the number of LPNs that will be funded including a listing of the programs that will be available to affiliate organizations.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

LPNs are encouraged to request information on the continuing education and specialty training offered by your health authority from your facility's nurse leader(s).

In addition, the LPN members of the FBA Joint Policy Committee are collecting this information provincially, and it will be posted on HEU's website as soon as it's available.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO GET THE TRAINING I WANT?

The FBA Joint Policy Committee LPNs are interested in hearing from you on the types of continuing education, post-basic and specialty education that you would like to have access to in your region.

If you would like more input into the training opportunities offered through the B.C. Health Education Foundation, contact an LPN from the FBA (*see phone and email contact information below*).

In addition, LPNs are eligible to apply to the \$5 million FBA Education Fund for short-term training. See the criteria for short-term training on your union's website.