



BC LPNs united

Training fund benefits LPNs, more courses coming online

LPN utilization is moving forward thanks to support from the \$2.5-million training fund secured in 2010 through the B.C. Health Education Foundation by HEU, in partnership with B.C.'s health authorities.

As planned, LPNs have greater opportunity to move into new roles in five specialty areas - emergency, OR, renal, mental health and maternity.



More than 450 LPNs have accessed specialty courses through in-house training, while others have signed on

to longer programs delivered through Douglas and Grant MacEwan colleges.

Some highlights include:

- Over 150 LPNs are taking one or more of Douglas College's five online modules in mental health.
- A seven-day course in maternity has been developed and is being piloted in Providence Health Care.
- In emergency, a course was developed and piloted with 12 LPNs in Fraser Health, which is now available to other health authorities.
- In OR, two courses - each over 400 hours - have been accessed by LPNs through Grant MacEwan College and Fraser Health is now looking to train LPNs to assist with Cesarean sections in the OR.
- In renal, seven LPNs have completed a 450-hour course. The in-house Providence Health Care course is being made available to other health authorities.

In addition, about 300 LPNs have accessed leadership training in residential care through a variety of different courses delivered in all health authorities.

As well, more than 2,400 training spots were offered to LPNs and care aides working in residential care on such topics as pain management, falls, communication and end-of-life care.

The training initiative is a collaborative effort between HEU representatives, managers and educators. Committees representing all three stakeholders were formed in each health authority to determine training priorities and create processes for participant selection.

So far, \$1.9 million has been allocated, with LPNs either having completed or enrolled in courses. It is expected training that has not yet been completed will continue through the spring.

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Other courses through Douglas and Grant MacEwan Colleges will see LPNs receive training in such areas as palliative care, dementia care, teamwork and communications, perioperative, post-partum and newborn care, nephrology, and assessment and promotion of mental health.

For more information on training opportunities for LPNs, please call 604-456-7185 or email mkirwan@heu.org.

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