

A Strong **LPNs** **INDEPENDENT** Profession



Regulation changes must reflect LPNs' views

HEU secretary-business manager Bonnie Pearson wrote B.C.'s health minister this week urging him to amend the LPN regulation under the Health Professions Act to provide LPNs with more professional autonomy.



"It will not be possible to leverage the full value of our nursing team until LPNs are empowered to independently deliver the care that is well within their education, training and competencies," wrote Pearson.

Government's anticipated overhaul of the Nurse (Licensed Practical) Regulation under the Health Professions Act is now long overdue.

The union has been urging the minister to ensure that upcoming changes to the regulation reflect the views of LPNs about the evolution of their profession. Pearson led a delegation of LPNs to meet with the health minister on this issue last fall.

Over the past decade, HEU has secured millions of dollars for professional development, leadership and specialty training in areas like renal, mental health, maternity, OR and ER.

“Compared to most other provinces, B.C.’s LPNs continue to be under-utilized...”

Currently there is one LPN working for every four RNs or RPNs in the province. This ratio has improved since 2002 when there was one LPN for every seven

RNs/RPNs – and it's a sign that HEU's plan for greater LPN utilization is succeeding.

But the fact remains that LPNs continue to be under-utilized in our health care system compared to most other provinces. That's why HEU will continue to advocate for necessary changes to the regulation and for expanded LPN utilization.

Correcting BCNU misinformation, again

Contrary to a recent claim, HEU continues to vigorously pursue a complaint to the Labour Relations Board about serious misrepresentations BCNU made to LPNs in their so-called "pledge."

Specifically, BCNU told LPNs they could leave BCNU after two collective agreements through a secret ballot referendum. B.C.'s Labour Code does not include any provisions for such a referendum.

BCNU also promised to form an LPN committee with the authority to finalize the terms of a tentative collective agreement. LPNs are members of the Facilities Bargaining Association. Only the FBA negotiating committee can finalize the terms of a tentative agreement.

The only matter that HEU is not pursuing at this time is whether LPNs were misled by BCNU organizers into the false belief that they were required to sign a BCNU card in order to get on the voters list.

In an effort to expedite proceedings at the labour board, HEU is not pursuing a full evidentiary hearing on this question.

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