

News Release – New LPN Legislation

May 2009 – The new Licensed Practical Nurses Act will provide the profession with a modern, current piece of legislation that better supports the model of care initiative in Nova Scotia and assists LPNs as they work to improve the health of Nova Scotians.

“The new legislation better reflects the changes and challenges LPNs face in today’s health system,” said Ann Mann, Executive Director/Registrar of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia. “It will help LPNs provide better care to their patients and be more effective in filling the expanded responsibilities of the profession.”

The new legislation has several highlights, including:

- An updated Scope of Practice which allows LPNs to work more independently in their practice.
- A change to the composition of the Board to better reflect self-regulation.
- The establishment of a Mandatory Continuing Competency Program to focus on “promoting the maintenance and enhancement of the continuing competence of Licensed Practical Nurses throughout their careers.”

“Overall, the changes place a greater emphasis on patient care, leadership, continuing education, and public accountability,” said Ann Mann.

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) governs and regulates Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in Nova Scotia. It develops standards of education and practice, registers practitioners, investigates complaints and promotes continuous education and learning for the province’s approximately 3,500 LPNs.

“The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia, like many other health care organizations, is responding to the many challenges facing health care by moving forward with new legislation and education that supports the current role and responsibilities of licensed practical nurses.”

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