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The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) Identifies Healthcare Priorities Requiring Immediate Action

FREDERICTON, September 8, 2010—New Brunswick electors continue to rank healthcare as a top priority, indicating access to care and the rising costs of drugs as challenges requiring immediate action.

“Today’s reality is over 60,000 NB citizens are without access to health services; services that could be provided by registered nurses and nurse practitioners in many settings” expressed Martha Vickers, President of NANB, New Brunswick’s professional regulatory body representing 8,900 registered nurses and nurse practitioners in the province. “We are concerned with the rising cost of health services, the challenging health status of our population and the eventual sustainability of the health system.”

The Association met with all five political parties to propose four policy initiatives which are believed to be the priorities for New Brunswick in relation to the health of our population and health services, and include the following:

1. enhancing access to health services;
2. ensuring the sustainability of the health system;
3. establishing a national pharmacare program; and
4. improving the health status of our population.

“The government elected on September 27th must take immediate action to address these challenges,” stated Roxanne Tarjan, Executive Director of NANB. “The current model of delivering health services does not meet the needs of New Brunswickers. If we do not change our ways, how can we get better outcomes?”

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