



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

Nurses Association of New Brunswick • L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers du Nouveau-Brunswick

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH AGREEMENT GOOD FOR ALL CANADIANS

FREDERICTON, 16 September 2004 - The achievement of a federal-provincial agreement on health demonstrates our commitment as Canadians to a publicly-funded, not-for-profit health care system designed to respond to the health care needs of Canadians and to protect and enhance that system for the next generation, said the Nurses Association of New Brunswick in response to yesterday's announcement in Ottawa.

This agreement includes investments to address health human resource challenges. It requires real accountability, will set targets for access to health care services, expand the continuum of care and provide predictable long-term funding.

"In New Brunswick we have been living the realities of inadequate financial resources on a daily basis. The predictable, long-term funding provided in this agreement will assist government, administrators and all stakeholders in responding to those challenges and improving health care services in New Brunswick," said NANB president Beth Sparks.

"As a profession our biggest challenge today and into the future is the nursing shortage. We are hopeful that with this additional funding the province will make the investments required to ensure an adequate supply of registered nurses to meet New Brunswick needs," Ms. Sparks added.

It also includes investments for continued primary health care reform, health promotion, disease prevention, public health, home care, aboriginal health and the development and implementation of a national pharmacare strategy.

"There is much work to be accomplished. The registered nurses of New Brunswick are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure we have a health care system that meets our unique health needs, improves our health status and strengthens our health care system," said Roxanne Tarjan, NANB executive director.

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8600 registered nurses and nurse practitioners. NANB's is responsible for advancing and maintaining the standards of nursing in the province, for governing and regulating those offering nursing care.

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