



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NURSES ASSOCIATION RELEASES LIST OF HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES TO CANDIDATES

FREDERICTON, 7 September 2006 — The Nurses Association of New Brunswick shared its list of health care priorities with candidates of all political parties today as the 2006 provincial election gets into full swing.

"We're sharing this information with candidates because we need their commitment that, if elected, they will support a publicly funded and administered health care system based on the principles of the Canada Health Act," said Sue Ness, president of the 8900-member Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB).

"We also want to impress on candidates that there is a critical need to accelerate the development and implementation of community-based primary health care services to further improve access to health care and improve the health status of New Brunswickers," Ms. Ness said..

The Association, in its priority document Registered Nurses: Partners in the Delivery of Safe, Quality Health Care, is requesting that the next government ensure adequate investments to create and sustain a robust registered nurse workforce able to meet the future needs of the health care system.

Ensuring an adequate supply of registered nurses requires three elements: (1) an education system that advances nursing education to support the delivery of safe, quality nursing care, (2) reasonable access through funded seats for students, and (3) appropriate supports and conditions in work environments to recruit and retain registered nurse professionals.

"By addressing the three components of the supply issue, government would be ensuring a 'best return' for the public investment in our nursing education system," she went on to say.

"Finally we would like government to implement the use of a health screen to ensure that health impacts are identified and addressed in the development and review of all public policy," Ms. Ness concluded.

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8900 registered nurses and nurse practitioners. NANB is responsible for advancing and maintaining the standards of nursing in the province and for governing and regulating those offering nursing care.

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