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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW BRUNSWICK NURSING SHORTAGE SIGNIFICANT, NATIONAL REPORT CONFIRMS

FREDERICTON, 14 December 2004 — A report released today by the Canadian Institute for Health Information confirms earlier studies indicating that New Brunswick will face a significant nursing shortage over the next five to seven years, said the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) in response to the report entitled *Workforce Trends of Registered Nurses*.

The Nurses Association's data indicates that over 25 % of New Brunswick's nursing workforce (approximately 2275 nurses) will be eligible for retirement in the next five to seven years. The *Fujitsu Report*, released by Government last February, showed an existing shortage of registered nurses and forecasts a shortage of more than 1000 registered nurses within three years.

"There can be no further delays in adding the 95 additional university nursing seats beyond September 2005. We're prepared to work with government, universities and other stakeholders to insure that we have enough nurses to provide quality care for all New Brunswickers," said Beth Sparks in response to the report.

"The Association has been calling for this increase in nursing education seats for three years, and it was one of the Premier's promises during the June 2003 election campaign, Ms. Sparks added.

"Given the severity of the nursing shortage, there is an urgent need to have a long-term plan to replenish the nursing ranks in New Brunswick. Failure to act will jeopardize the sustainability of our health care system," Ms. Sparks concluded.

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8600 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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