



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PATIENTS FIRST. SAFETY ALWAYS

THEME OF 2005 NATIONAL NURSING WEEK

FREDERICTON, May 8, 2005 — National Nursing Week, May 9-15, puts the spotlight on “patient safety” and the role nurses play in monitoring and responding to patient needs while ensuring safe, competent and ethical nursing care.

National Nursing Week is celebrated annually to acknowledge and underscore the important contributions of nurses to the health and well-being of individual Canadians.

As the principal provider of health care to patients, overseeing, co-ordinating and providing care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) believes that nurses are in a position to strengthen the safety net for patient care.

Nursing has always given the highest priority to patient safety, focusing on reducing errors and improving systems as part of a larger, collaborative approach involving the public, other professions, employers and governments.

Beth Sparks, NANB president, noted that patient safety is a collaborative effort and that's why:

- professional associations like NANB must set standards which promote patient safety,
- governments must ensure a sufficient number of nurses to provide quality care,
- health care institutions must appropriately staff units providing care, and that
- globally, a culture of system accountability and system competence is promoted.

As a professional association, NANB promotes patient safety through licensure which insures that all nurses practising in New Brunswick meet the minimum requirements to practice. By 2008, all nurses in New Brunswick will have to show evidence of their continuing competence in order to renew their registration.

The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8700 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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