

Nurses
Association of
New Brunswick



L'Association des
infirmières et infirmiers
du Nouveau-Brunswick

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVINCIAL HEALTH PLAN:

NANB awaits an update to the Health Human Resources Study conducted in 2002.

FREDERICTON, 2 April 2008 — The Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) is pleased Minister Michael Murphy and the Department of Health confirmed the province's commitment to maintaining a publicly funded and sustainable health care system over the next four years.

Initiatives such as; Primary Health Care Access and Team Pilot, Chronic Disease Self-management Program, supporting early childhood development and increasing access to the provincial prescription drug program, as well as the establishment of six new community based health centres throughout the province, have been advocated by the NANB for the past decade and are included in this Plan. "We are very encouraged and congratulate the Minister and the Department for their vision for health care and enhanced focus on prevention and health promotion," said Monique Cormier-Daigle, President NANB.

“However, challenges relating to the Health Human Resources are critical to sustaining the health care system.” While the Plan includes investments in recruitment and retention including forgivable loans, bursaries and scholarships for registered nurses, and a subsidy program to ensure an adequate cadre of nurse educators. “Our latest statistics indicate registered nurses are currently working overtime hours equivalent to an additional 1500 positions,” said Monique Cormier-Daigle, President. “This is not sustainable and contributes to the degree of illness and injury in the workforce.” Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Don Ferguson confirmed the Department is working on completing an update to the Health Human Resources Study first conducted in 2002 and will be sharing the results with stakeholders in the coming months.

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The Nurses Association of New Brunswick is a professional, regulatory body representing 8200 registered nurses and nurse practitioners. NANB is responsible for advancing and maintaining the standards of nursing in the province, for governing and regulating those offering nursing care.