

NANB Recognized as a Champion of Linguistic Harmony

Editor's note: On September 28th, 2011, NANB received the prestigious Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award. The following encompasses both the citation provided by Dialogue NB and an abridged version of France Marquis' acceptance speech.

As the largest group of health professionals in the province, with 8,900 members, the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) champions the principles of harmony and respect between Anglophone and Francophone communities in its daily functions. When the association speaks, it speaks in the language of both linguistic groups, aligned to the core values espoused by the Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award. Specifically, every official document of the association is available in both official languages. Every board meeting and annual general membership meeting is conducted with simultaneous interpretation. NANB's website and journal are offered in both languages. Educational sessions are available for both French-speaking and English-speaking nurses. The Association's commitment to linguistic duality is not required by law. That it nevertheless deems diversity a lynchpin of its service in New Brunswick makes the NANB a most worthy recipient of the Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award.

“It is indeed an honour and a privilege to accept this award on behalf of the Board of Directors and registered nurses of the Nurses Association of New Brunswick. The mission of Dialogue NB includes the concepts of understanding, respect and appreciation between English and French speaking New Brunswickers with more precise objectives of allowing citizens of both linguistic communities to share their needs, aspirations and concerns through dialogue, that they will meet, interact and collaborate and finally that linguistic equality is valued and appreciated, goals and values shared by the Nurses Association of New Brunswick.

Thank you sincerely for this recognition of our achievements as an organization and community to the advancement of these goals. Over 30 years ago the Board of Directors of the Nurses Association of New Brunswick endorsed a Strategic Communications Plan that has shaped the NANB before you today. The vision and values of the Board are grounded by the values of our profession, a profession of extensive knowledge and expertise but one that happens in the interaction of

human beings. Our profession's commitment to effective communication is founded in our commitment to competent, ethical care for the patients, families and communities we serve. As the professional association responsible for the regulation of the practice of registered nurses in the public interest in New Brunswick, the Association, Board of Directors and members have supported the strategic goals, policies and resource expenditures that have supported and nurtured the full participation and contribution of registered nurses, our colleagues, stakeholders and the public of both linguistic communities in New Brunswick to the advancement of our profession, educational programs, code of ethics, standards and guidelines, entrance-to-practice requirements, disciplinary process to highlight some of our activities. This engagement, debate and dialogue as well as the opportunity of both linguistic communities to contribute without barriers has strengthened and enriched our Association, our profession and the New Brunswick health system.

I believe this award also calls us to continue to demonstrate our leadership in this area and to model the positive outcomes the full engagement of both linguistic communities has brought as we fulfil our mandate and support and advance registered nurse practice in the province.

Thank you again for this award; we will use it to inspire us every day.”