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For immediate attention



New Programs for Integration of Internationally Educated Health Professionals (IEHPs)

The IEHP Atlantic Connection Steering Committee, a working group of the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR) is pleased to announce five new programs to help integrate and retain Internationally Educated Health Professionals (IEHPs) to the region. Project funding for the Atlantic Connection Project-Phase II: 2011-2016, was made available by Health Canada, through the Health Care Policy Contribution Program.

“IEHPs who are fully integrated into our health care systems and the various communities who welcome them will contribute expertise and experience to help address shortages of health care workers in our Atlantic region,” said Michele Roussel, Co-Chair of AACHHR.

Project models and designs will be disseminated to other Atlantic Canadian provinces and regions of Canada. The following projects will be implemented over the next five years:

Leadership Development for Prince Edward Island, is led the Prince Edward Island Association for Newcomers to Canada and the PEI Health Sector Council, with support from the Government of Prince Edward Island. This project builds on the IEHP Newcomer Retention Toolkit project of 2010, which was funded by the Awareness and Retention Committee of the Atlantic Population Table. It will better prepare the health care workplaces and communities on PEI to accept, integrate and retain IEHPs.

Bridging for Internationally Educated Medical Laboratory Technologists (IEMLTs) is led by the The New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists. This project will provide a bridging program in both English and French in the province of New Brunswick for IEMLTs that can then be used as a model program and replicated in other Provinces.

Bridging for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) is led by the Nurses Association of New Brunswick. This project will enhance NANB's capacity to provide a comprehensive and sustainable process for the assessment and successful integration of Anglophone and Francophone IENs into the New Brunswick workforce.

Self-Assessment Readiness Tools (SART) for IEHPs is led by the Nova Scotia Community College and PMA. This project will add to the current on-line SARTs that provide potential immigrants with an idea of whether they are likely to meet requirements to practice their profession in a Canadian context, and what that looks like. The tool is not to be confused with assessment for professional competence, but is rather a step prior to the competency assessment that allows the IEHP to make self-determination of what it might mean if they choose to immigrate to Canada and seek licensure in their current profession. Additionally the tools may help IEHPs identify potential alternative career pathways prior to immigration.

Regional Integration of IEHPs-Midwifery in Atlantic Canada is led by Affinity Consulting. This project addresses the challenges of creating access to sustainable regional/Atlantic assessment, bridging and post-entry integration for IEHPs in professions where current numbers are small but can be expected to grow, such as internationally Educated Midwives. The project will explore and develop a sustainable model and support materials for the regional integration of IEHPs-Midwifery that can be applied to other professions.

“International Professionals entering our health care systems and settling in our region bring more than just health care expertise, they and their families bring economic, cultural and intellectual capital to benefit our communities. We are pleased to be recipients of the funding provided by Health Canada and will enjoy the benefits of sharing best practices with our colleagues across Canada,” said Raphael Moore, Co-Chair of AACHHR.

For more information on these new initiatives, contact the program management office of the IEHP Atlantic Connection at 1-888-637-9777 or visit our website at www.atlanticcanadahealthcare.com.