

## Merger of Extra-Mural Program and Medavie/ Blue Cross

The Government of New Brunswick recently announced a merger with Medavie/Blue Cross to improve access and coordinate efforts between nurses in the Extra-mural Program, NB Telecare providers and paramedics employed by Ambulance NB. Government officials and health stakeholders, including NANB, have participated in on-going meetings since early 2015. A number of health stakeholders, NBMS as well as Horizon Health Network, along with employees see this announcement as an opportunity for improved health service delivery.

NANB's priorities continue to focus on the RNs ability to practice in a safe environment, to meet practice standards while ensuring the delivery of safe, competent care to the public.

Support of this announcement does not represent NANB's position regarding privatization, recognizing operational procedures are not within our mandate.

*A statement regarding NANB's position follows:*

As the regulatory body mandated to assure the public of safe, competent and ethical nursing care; NANB supports improved collaboration and increased access to health services. As the aging population in New Brunswick increases, and the number of health human resources decreases; profound health support change is happening, and must continue to happen, to preserve access to care

Eliminating pre-existing silos and working as a team to optimize service delivery should see registered nurses working to their full scope of practice, assigned appropriately to patients requiring registered nurse assessment and care; and enhancing additional opportunities for nurses as expert clinicians and case managers/ care coordinators; as well as continuing education and career advancement for nurses.

New Brunswick residents, especially the elderly, should experience decreased visits to the emergency department and fewer hospital admissions. This will allow elderly persons to stay in their homes longer. These changes should enhance support for individuals and families navigating the health-care system, and to experience safe, quality care by seeing the right provider, at the right time, when needed.

We recognize that change brings a period of uncertainty, however we continue to dialogue with government to ensure that quality nursing care services are maintained.