

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NANB Responds to Grossly Inaccurate Information

FREDERICTON, Friday February 3, 2017 - As the regulatory body for registered nurses and nurse practitioners in New Brunswick, the only officially bilingual province in the country, the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) feels it is our obligation to provide the public factual information in regards to the national entry-to-practice exam, correcting what has been reported in recent days by members of the Canadian Nursing Student's Association (CNSA).

This media campaign is being led by CNSA and invoked in fear from nurse leaders who continue to fuel the fire on a group of students who have not seen, or written the exam. The campaign contains unsupported claims of 'Americanized' content, poor translation, and student performance not being relevant to success- a statement which contradicts NANB's 10-year comparison.

"Media campaigns such as the recent one implemented by CNSA create a destructive wave of misinformation," says Laurie Janes, Executive Director of NANB. "Adding to the confusion and anxiety for nursing students, this sort of emotional and inaccurate approach is disappointing and clearly indicates a need to liaise with CNSA representatives to ensure they are informed by the facts."

What NANB knows to be true is that New Brunswick nurse graduates experienced the lowest pass rates in Canada when the national entry-to-practice exam was introduced in 2015, and that trend continues today. We have also seen rapid rise in success among second exam attempts, as well as significant improvements with some nursing programs across the province. Recognizing success rates of francophone nurse graduates continue to be dismal, the NANB along with the provincial government, and the exam

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provider authorized a third-party translation review, whereby the results concluded the translation of the exam was satisfactory.

NANB members passed a resolution at the 2016 Annual General Meeting calling for a Taskforce to be established with an objective to work together for improved exam results. This Taskforce has met regularly since December 2016 and is comprised of nurse leaders from both New Brunswick universities, provincial government, health authorities, the New Brunswick Nurses Union, NANB and recent nurse graduates who have successfully written and passed the national entry-to-practice exam. In addition to collaborating constructively, facilitating an approach to incorporate best practices and to move forward ensuring New Brunswick nurse graduates are prepared and succeed, this group of nurse leaders are committed to improving exam pass rates on the first writing experience.

NANB is reaching out to leaders of CNSA and New Brunswick nursing students to discuss information cited in this campaign.

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