



Position Statement- NANB Responds to “Une diplômée en science infirmière échoue à l'examen d'accréditation neuf fois”

NANB is growing increasingly frustrated by the misinformation being circulated and the continued focus on students who are not successful writing the national entry-to-practice exam.

Background:

As in most professions, entrance exams are written by doctors, pharmacists, engineers, psychologists, lawyers and other professionals. For regulators, these exams are one measure of a student's proficiency in their area of chosen study. This is especially important in areas where public safety is a concern, recognizing nurses provide 24/7 services to vulnerable members of our public in emergency situations and during illness or following an injury.

After the introduction to the NCLEX-RN exam in January 2015, measures were taken by NANB's Board of Directors to support nursing graduates as results across the province for both Anglophone and Francophone students were dismal. An NANB rule change permitted every nursing student an opportunity to receive a 2-year work permit and unlimited exam attempts within a 3-year period. NANB's statistics indicate: **Over 90% of all nursing graduates become successfully registered within the 2-year period.** On average nursing students choosing to write in the French language require three to four attempts, where the English language writers are successful after their first and or second attempts. Unfortunately, in every profession and for every graduating class, there are some students who are not successful.

Facts:

According to NANB records, the nurse in question, graduated in 2014 prior to the introduction of NCLEX-RN. The nurse was unsuccessful after two attempts, failing what was the previous Canadian Registered Nurse Exam (CRNE). It is important to note a comprehensive study guide was available for purchase with the previous exam in both official languages. Unfortunately, the same nurse went on to write the NCLEX seven times without success.

Since 2015, a number of diverse study resources are available to French language nursing graduates. UdeM students have access to all university resources for six months after graduation and some faculty members from various nursing programs offer small group study sessions should the students require additional preparation. Both NANB and the exam provider have numerous resources for exam preparation available on their websites in both official languages.



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As part of the contract with the exam provider, NANB is given the opportunity to review exam questions twice per year. Since January 2015, over 2500+ exam items have been reviewed by francophone registered nurses --reporting no item/question could not be understood due to the translation.

Closing:

With a continued focus on the unsuccessful nursing graduate exam attempts, we foster a culture of blame, distraction and anxiety directed on each new cohort of potential nurse graduates-- rather than a positive, reflective and supportive environment.

NANB continues to consider every possible resolution proposed, recognizing there is no alternative exam available at this time. The exam continues to be a priority for the Association and we commit to working with all other health stakeholders to support nursing graduates.