



Nurse Practitioner  
Association of Canada

Association des  
infirmières et infirmiers  
praticiens du Canada

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Lenora Brace, MN, NP  
309 Burris Road  
Brookfield, NS B0N 1C0  
902-956-4822  
August 7, 2020

Cindy MacQuarrie  
Senior Director for Interprofessional Practice and Learning for Nova Scotia Health  
Nova Scotia Health

Without prejudice

Dear Cindy MacQuarrie:

I am raising a concern of public safety risk, lack of employee professional clarity and NSH communication and signage lacking integrity when Family Practice Nurse (FPN) is used in place of Registered Nurse (RN).

The reason is because FPN is not a certified nurse title and it is not a legislated nurse title. Numerous patients/clients have asked what 'is an FPN?'. The correct response is it is not a nurse title. The use of FPN is inconsistent with the Nursing Act (section 2 (c) and 24

[https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd\\_2nd/3rd\\_read/b121.htm](https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd_2nd/3rd_read/b121.htm)

The use of FPN is confusing and potentially could lead the patient/client to believe the nurse is a nurse practitioner (NP) which could result in an untoward patient/client outcome. There is a safety risk.

I initially, as a self-regulated professional, contacted Trent MacIsaac at the Nova Scotia College of Nursing with my concern RNPDC FPN was listed as an example of a certification program. I was confident it was not nationally certified. I received this response:

Upon further reflection we have removed RNPDC as an example of a certification program. Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We have determined to be certified; the following criteria must be met:

- a national or international board or association oversees the certification program and grants the certification
- an applicant demonstrates the competencies required by the national or international board or association

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- the applicant has formally demonstrated their competencies, i.e. by taking an exam
- the applicant maintains their competence through formal methods, e.g. re-examination or developing a portfolio every few years

I encourage you to have a discussion with Trent MacIsaac.

I have discussed with leadership locally in Pictou County, I contacted Lynn Edwards who indicated she was sending it on to others to review the concern. I discussed this with the executive of NPAC-AIIPC and with Deb Hart Co-Chair of NPANS who reviewed this letter for me.

Accurate communication is necessary. Our patients/clients deserve clear professional titles based on legislation. Nursing needs to be clear in professional titles.

I am asking that NSH nursing titles align with legislation to prevent harm to those we serve, to the professional nursing roles and for the integrity of the NSH organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lenora Brace".

Lenora Brace, MN, NP

President

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