



**Nurse Practitioner
Association of Canada**

**Association des
infirmières et infirmiers
praticiens du Canada**

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Dear Michelle and Jennifer, PNATF Co-Chairs;

Thank you for the work and coordination of stakeholder engagement toward the final product of the Vision for the Future of Nursing in Canada. The directors of NPAC-AIIPC appreciate you and the support of the HC-CHW.

The final Vision for the Future of Nursing in Canada is a vision to work towards.

NPAC-AIIPC directors wanted a different definition of nurse practitioner (NP) to be utilized in the publication rather than the Canadian Nursing Association definition of NP .

The lack of clarity in roles, due in part to how we define them, is problematic in our nursing literature. While historical, the underpinning of referring to NPs as RNs is problematic and does not support the advancement of the Nurse Practitioner role, but stifles it within old context, creating confusion among the public, and health and policy leaders. NPAC-AIIPC developed the following definition available on our website, 'In Canada, Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are licensed by jurisdictional nursing regulators. NPs are graduate prepared health care providers who practice autonomously and independently. NPs provide direct care to patients to diagnose and manage disease/illness, prescribe medications, order/interpret laboratory/diagnostic tests, and initiate referrals to specialists' (Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada, 2018; <https://npac-aiipc.org/>)

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) publication Guidelines on Advanced Practice Nursing 2020 included NPAC-AIIPC's 2018 definition we offered to them on page 36 of their document. An excellent modernized definition is ICN's NP definition, 'A Nurse Practitioner is an Advanced Practice Nurse who integrates clinical skills associated with nursing and medicine in order to assess, diagnose and manage

patients in primary healthcare (PHC) settings and acute care populations as well as ongoing care for populations with chronic illness' (ICN 2020).

As the national nurse practitioner association in Canada, we advocate for role clarity in present and future definitions to promote the Vision for the Future of Nursing in Canada.

Sincerely,

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

On behalf of the board of directors of NPAC-AIIPC

Lenora Brace, MN, NP, President NPAC-AIIPC

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