



Nurse Practitioners  
Association of Canada

Association des  
infirmières et  
infirmiers praticiens  
du Canada

#### **NPAC-AIIPC**

1205-1033 Marinaside Crescent  
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W : [www.npac-aiipc.org](http://www.npac-aiipc.org)

October 28, 2024

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Holland:

### **Publicly Funded Healthcare and Nurse Practitioner Integration**

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada (NPAC) firmly supports publicly funded healthcare for all Canadians and is committed to upholding the principles of the Canada Health Act including public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility.

Over 6 million Canadians currently lack access to a primary care provider resulting in unmet health needs and overburdened emergency departments (Statistics Canada, 2023). Nurse practitioners (NPs) across Canada are increasingly stepping in to provide primary care access providing high-quality, safe, and cost-effective care. Research consistently demonstrates that NP care is safe and effective contributing significantly to the health and well-being of Canadians.

### **Call for Robust Funding Models**

Nurse practitioners are not explicitly listed within the Canada Health Act despite their vital role in healthcare delivery. This omission has led some NPs to provide private pay services for patients to receive necessary care in the absence of robust public funding models. As noted in the July 23, 2024 Globe & Mail references "Minister Holland promising to issue in "short order" a letter clarifying that Canadians shouldn't have to pay out pocket for medically necessary primary care provided by health professionals other than physicians, including nurse practitioners".

The NPAC and its members believe inclusion of NPs within the Canada Health Act including robust funding models would ensure sustainability of NP care delivery across Canada.



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The NPAC calls on federal, provincial, and territorial governments to create and implement comprehensive funding models that support NPs across all practice areas including primary care, acute care, and long-term care.

We formally request the federal government to work with the Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada to establish federal, provincial and territorial secretariat that will support employers, post-secondary educational institutions, regulators, nurse practitioners and their respective provincial & territorial association to fully integrate NPs into Canadian healthcare.

### **Flexibility in Employment and Care Delivery**

The NPAC recognizes the importance of flexible care delivery models for the Canadians to access care and to promote and sustain NPs delivering care. These models must include provision of virtual and in-person care to meet the everchanging needs of patients. Employer funded virtual care programs play a crucial role in supplementing the conventional in-person visit primary care system with a significant amount of this care delivered by NPs throughout Canada. NPs are providing a valuable contribution to both virtual and in-person care and call on the federal government to support diverse funding and employment models to ensure Canadians get timely and appropriate access to care.

### **Looking Forward to Further Clarification and Action**

The NPAC eagerly anticipates your clarification letter Minister Holland and are hopeful that it will provide the necessary mechanisms to ensure NPs will be fully funded in all provinces, territories and federal programs. We hope to see swift action on funding models that recognize and support the critical role of NPs in providing care across Canada.

By investing in and supporting the high quality of care NPs provide, we ensure all Canadians will have access to comprehensive healthcare aligned with the principles of the Canada Health Act.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stan Marchuk, DNP, MN-NP(F), FAANP  
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Laura Housden, PhD, MN-NP(F)  
President



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Cc:

Hon. Justin Trudeau – Prime Minister

Dr. Leigh Chapman, Chief Nursing Office of Canada, Health Canada

Dr. Sukhwant Jassar, President, NP Council, Nurses & Nurse Practitioners of BC

Dr. Jennifer Mador, President, Nurse Practitioners Association of Alberta

Johanne Rust, President, Saskatchewan Association of Nurse Practitioners

Chandra Hawkins, Chair, Nurse Practitioner Association of Manitoba

Dr. Michelle Acorn, Chief Executive Officer, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario

Maude Raymond, Présidente, Association des infirmières praticiennes spécialisées du Québec

Kate Sheppard, Interim CEO, Nurse Practitioners' Association of New Brunswick

Aprill Susin, President, Nurse Practitioners' Association of Nova Scotia

Travis Sheppard, President, Newfoundland and Labrador Nurse Practitioner Association

Dawn Holloway, Chair Person, PEI Nurse Practitioner Association

Erin Currie, North West Territories NP Council Representative

Robert McMurdy, Nunavut NP Council Representative

Dr. Valerie Grdisa, , Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Nurses Association