

The Nursing Education Council of British Columbia (NECBC), a consortium of program leaders representing the community of nursing programs (HCA, LPN, RN, RPN) has a vision of nursing education that is informed by evidence and projects a clear and sustainable direction for the preparation of a high quality nursing workforce. Nursing education policy and planning is the primary responsibility of educators in collaboration with key stakeholders (e.g. academic councils, communities, government, practitioners, practice agencies, students, regulatory bodies, nursing associations and unions). NECBC recognizes nursing as one of the health care professions that contribute to quality health care services and ultimately the health of British Columbians. The Council is therefore committed to best practices in nursing education that prepares graduates to deliver safe and competent nursing care in collaboration with other health care practitioners.

Nursing education is well positioned to prepare the nursing workforce of the future -- graduates have the capacity to practice in an increasingly complex health care system, ensure high quality nursing care and patient safety, lead changes in care delivery models, meet the challenge of pandemics, produce health research, and work intersectorally to promote population health.

NECBC's action framework consists of **four components** accompanied by principles and strategies:

1. Influence government and stakeholders on policy directions that will increase capacity and quality in nursing education and health human resources
2. Plan and sustain high quality nursing education programs and delivery models
3. Collaborate with intersectoral partners in integrating the spectrum of nursing roles and models for quality care delivery, patient safety, and optimal health outcomes
4. Define and secure fiscal and faculty resources necessary for nursing education, research and knowledge translation

NECBC believes that there are three urgent priorities for the direction of policy pertaining to the education and sustainability of the nursing workforce into the future:

- **Recognizing the urgent need to invest in nursing faculty supply and program infrastructure (? Add data from CASN survey?)**
- **Fostering and investing in innovative initiatives in practice education, and distributive delivery models that promote access for all populations of students (Add data re placements from PLACES study?)**
- **In collaboration with key stakeholders, identify health human resource needs/goals and target programming initiatives that support the recruitment and retention of nurses .**

NECBC has already begun to address many of the components in our action framework.

- Implement a political and educational planning strategy and develop partnerships for advancing nursing education and health human resources planning policy in B.C.
- Maintain vigilance in monitoring government policies pertaining to emerging care delivery models and related implications for nursing recruitment and sustaining nursing education programs.
- Develop a strategy to ensure that government continues to invest in quality nursing education in the interests of a sustainable workforce and one that views the nursing shortage as more than numbers.
- Participate actively in political action on national priorities for nursing education.