



February 21, 2017

Bryce Boynton
President / 2016-2017
Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA)
By email: president@CNSA.CA

Dear Mr. Boynton

RE: NCLEX – RN exam

As the professional association representing Canadian nurses in the field of perinatal and women's health, we would like to add our support to the concerns raised by the Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) related to the NCLEX-RN Exam. We share CNSA's concerns about the lack of Canadian content in the current exam, particularly as this relates to perinatal competencies within the Canadian context. The care environments, policies and practices of perinatal nursing differ widely in the United States, as do the social determinants of health. It is imperative that we teach – and test – students in such a way that they will be able to plan, implement and respond effectively to the health needs of our childbearing families.

We appreciate the challenges of making modifications to a pre-existing exam. We facilitated a Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) workshop at our last national conference to bring together educators, staff nurses and administrators to update competencies for beginning RNs in perinatal and women's health nurses. This work should align and be integrated with the NCLEX-RN exam.

In closing, we support the ongoing efforts of CNSA to bring attention to legitimate concerns expressed by our national student representatives that address current shortcomings in the NCLEX-RN exam. Successful completion of the NCLEX-RN exam that reflects testing of knowledge specific to expectations derived from Canadian competencies can enable the future generation of nurses to provide the best quality of care to our childbearing families in Canada.

Sincerely,

Sharon Dore, RN PhD
President, CAPWHN

cc: Anne Sutherland Boal, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Nurses Association
Barb Shellian, President, Canadian Nurses Association
Cynthia Baker, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing
Pauline Paul, President, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing

Canadian Association of Perinatal and Women's Health Nurses
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