Introduction

As the national voice for nursing education, research, and scholarship in Canada, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) speaks for our member schools of nursing who offer baccalaureate and/or graduate programs in nursing.

Following a two-year battle with a global pandemic that seriously challenged Canada’s already complex health care system, schools of nursing are fighting to sustain high quality of nursing education in the face of threats on multiple fronts.

Through the Quality Nursing Education National Insights Portal, CASN shares insights from our member schools about the challenges and strategies to address them. Centralizing insights and key messages from schools of nursing across Canada offers national support to local initiatives. Users are encouraged to reference what they find helpful and/or download the content in English or French for advocacy purposes in their local context.
Need for Government Collaboration and Investment

Collaboration among nursing education, governments, and health care services results in more strategic investments in nursing education; that will help conserve the high quality of nursing education that Canada is known for internationally and help resolve the current nursing shortage.

Schools require additional funding for programs, resources, sites, and faculty, but more than that, they require a seat at the strategic planning table. This will allow them to provide context on the challenges and education on what works and what doesn’t. With effective collaboration, the right support goes to the best solution at the appropriate time.

Schools of nursing need a seat at the table

Effective collaboration between governments, service, and nursing education is foundational to addressing the current nursing shortage and improving the health of Canadians. We strongly encourage government leaders to reach out to the schools of nursing in their province and invite them to present the challenges they are experiencing and collaborate with them on the development of feasible and effective strategies to overcome them.
Conclusion

Maintaining Canada’s high quality of nursing education is critical to the health and well-being of Canadians. Nursing is a complex and emotionally demanding profession. It requires an in-depth theoretical and scientific foundation, strong clinical reasoning skills, solid clinical judgement, honed technical skills, compassion, caring, and emotional resilience. Nursing incompetence or nursing error can put patients’ lives in jeopardy. Maintaining the high-quality of Canadian health care must remain paramount.

CASN and our member schools of nursing are working tirelessly to maintain high-quality nursing education in Canada, and we look forward to strengthening alliances through communication, cooperation, and collaboration on strategies to resolve the current health human resource issues and rejuvenate the health care workforce.

For more information on this resource and how you can support Canadian schools of nursing, please contact us.