



**British Columbia Council
Canadian Federation of University Women
Fédération Canadienne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

Mr. Stan Marchuk
President, BCNPA

By email: info@bcnpa.org

November 8, 2013

Dear Mr. Marchuk:

RE: CFUW BC Council Policy on Nurse Practitioners

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) BC Council to advise you that our organization adopted a policy at our recent provincial AGM concerning Nurse Practitioners (copy attached).

We are asking the provincial government to improve access to primary health care in BC by increasing the role of Nurse Practitioners and ensuring that they are working to their full scope of practice. We are requesting that the Provincial Government establish stable, long term funding for Nurse Practitioner positions, and develop funding models that will enable them to work autonomously within a team of health professionals. In addition, we are requesting that the Province fund additional spaces in Nurse Practitioner programs in BC universities.

We are concerned that an estimated 1 in 10 British Columbians are without a primary health care provider (IPSOS poll sponsored by BCMA 2011), which results in increased visits to emergency departments and potentially unnecessary hospitalizations. Both of these methods of service are more costly to the health care system than community primary health care and they do not give the client the continuity of care that enhances quality of health outcomes. We note that in other Canadian provinces studies show that nurse practitioners are working with doctors in a way that provides for cost effective service delivery and an enhanced quality of care for patients.

While we welcome the Provincial government's announcement last year for the funding of 190 new spaces for Nurse Practitioners over a three year period, we strongly support all initiatives that will continue to strengthen their role with a stable funding and service model which respects their skills and training.

CFUW BC Council is comprised of clubs in twenty-three communities across British Columbia. Our organization of approximately 2000 women is non-partisan and totally member-funded. Our policies are developed through resolutions presented and voted on by all member clubs at regional and national annual general meetings.

We place our education and professional training at the service of our communities. We take an interest and participate in public affairs, and advocate for human rights and improvements to the status of women and girls. Our clubs also raise a significant amount of money annually for scholarships, bursaries and other charitable causes.

We are part of the Canadian Federation of University Women founded in 1919 that has about 9000 members in clubs in every province. CFUW is the largest affiliate of the

International Federation of University Women (IFUW). Both organizations have special consultative status at the United Nations.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our policy.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeannette Mergens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeannette Mergens
President CFUW BC Council

CFUW BC Council Policy

NURSE PRACTITIONERS in BC
CFUW Sunshine Coast, 2013

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women(CFUW), BC Council urge the Government of BC to increase the integration of Nurse Practitioners into the Primary Health Care System and to ensure that Nurse Practitioners can work to their full scope of practice in BC by:

1. Establishing stable, long term funding for Nurse Practitioner positions.
2. Developing funding models that will provide Nurse Practitioners with the opportunity to work as full primary health care providers and to work to their full scope of practice. The model implemented should allow Nurse Practitioners to work autonomously within a team of health professionals. An example of such a model is the non-profit Community Health Centre governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of community members.
3. Funding additional places in Nurse Practitioner Programmes at BC Universities.

CC by email BC Nurses' Union