



Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing
Association canadienne des écoles de sciences infirmières

Monday, May 16th, 2005

RE: CASN Public Health Education Survey to examine current status of public health content in Canadian Baccalaureate Nursing Programs

Dear Colleagues,

Currently, public health capacity in Canada is undergoing massive changes. Events such as SARS and West Nile virus have precipitated the review and restructuring of the public health system in Canada.

A number of innovative national partnership initiatives to build public health capacity are addressing the relationships between education, practice, research, and policy. One such initiative is the review of the community health content in baccalaureate nursing programs across Canada based on Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice (CHN-SP).

The Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice were released in 2003 (<http://www.communityhealthnursescanada.org/Standards.htm>). Consequently, in January 2004 Community Health Nursing was designated a specialty by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). The Community Health Nursing Association of Canada (CHNAC) has worked with CNA to develop core competencies for community health nursing with the first writing of the certification exam planned for spring 2006. The importance of integration of education and practice is more critical than ever before to ensure the necessary foundational knowledge and skills to meet the Standards of Practice.

The Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) created a Task Force on Public Health Education (consisting of educators and employers) to develop guidelines ensuring that all baccalaureate graduates of Canadian schools of nursing have the foundation to meet the CHN-SP. There has been significant consultative and financial support from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) for this initiative. The first step of this process is the enclosed survey. ***Your input is vital to the success of this joint initiative.***

The survey is to ascertain the community health content, strategies of delivery, internal and external factors which influence baccalaureate nursing curricula. Completion of the survey provides an opportunity to showcase innovative community health nursing education delivery strategies, which can benefit all. A report of aggregate data will be made available to all schools.

Once the information is collected through this survey, analysis of the gaps in educational curricula will be identified and recommendations made for improvement.

Please complete the surveys by **May 30, 2005**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Pat Griffin'.

Pat Griffin
Executive Director
Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing