



# Activity Plan

## Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee

2007/08

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## Chairperson's Message

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I am pleased to provide the 2007/08 Activity Plan for the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) in accordance with the requirements of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 Government Entity. This is a transition plan leading into the three year plan required for 2008-2011. In the development of this plan careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of government, as communicated by the responsible minister.

This Activity Plan provides an overview of the NPCAC and identifies key objectives to be accomplished during the fiscal period covered by the plan. As Acting Chairperson of the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee, I am accountable on behalf of the entire Committee, for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the specific objectives contained therein.

*Anita Ludlow*

Anita Ludlow  
Acting Chairperson

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## 1.0 Overview

The Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) derives its authority from the *Registered Nurses Act* and is constituted for the purpose of advising the Minister of Health and Community Services, the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador and the province's regional health authorities on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulatory framework. The Committee is appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services and serves a three year mandate.

The committee membership is defined in the legislation and consists of health care professionals and administrators including representation from the three principle professions: pharmacy, medicine and nursing. The present committee was appointed in 2003 and will remain active until new committee members are appointed. The committee membership included:

Committee Members	Committee Members
John Budgell, GRHS, Chair (Resigned September 2005)	Donna Best, MUN School of Nursing
Betty Lundrigan, ARNNL	Jill Squires Bruneau, NP-S (On leave of absence for 2006/07)
Margot Priddle, NPhA	Anthony Richards, NP-PHC
Vinod Patel, NLMB (Replaced by Dr. Barbara Grandy)	Dorothy Johnson, CWHB (Deceased)
Marcy Greene, Centre for Nursing Studies	Kevin Melvin, Cardiac Surgeon
Lydia Hatcher, Family Physician	Lori Marshall, Public Representative
Reginald Coates, DHCS (Replaced by Karen Stone 2006)	

The Division of Chief Nurse and Workforce Planning, Policy and Planning Branch, Department of Health and Community Services provides secretariat function to the committee. The Chief Nurse is acting chair of the Committee.

## **Committee Processes**

Two face to face meetings will be held annually and supplemented with teleconference meetings as required. Standing and ad hoc subcommittees will be created to meet workload demands and deal with specific concerns as they arise.

Decisions of the NPCAC are made by majority vote provided that the three principle parties named under the legislation vote in concert with the majority vote.

Committee expenses are minimal as any costs, travel or other, are covered by the organization that the individual represents.

## **2.0 Mandate**

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Legislated under the Registered Nurses Act, the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) is established to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services, the ARNNL Council and the province's regional health boards on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulations contained in RN Act. The primary purpose of the Committee is to facilitate effective, safe nurse practitioner practice through the identification and management of appropriate issues. Specifically, the objectives for NPCAC are as follows:

### **Objectives**

1. To conduct an annual review of the regulations governing the activities of nurse practitioners.
2. To develop a timely and efficient process that allows for the approval of specialty nurse practitioner protocols.
3. To establish a forum whereby evidence based policy decisions can be used to improve the practice environment for nurse practitioners.
4. To provide an annual report on the status of regulations.

## **3.0 Primary Client**

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The primary client of the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) is the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Community Services. The Committee advises the Minister of Health and Community Services, the ARNNL Council and the province's regional health boards on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulations contained in RN Act.

## 4.0 Vision

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The Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee supports the vision of the Department of Health and Community Services.

*" The vision of the Department of Health and Community Services is for individuals, families and communities to have achieved health and well being."*

## 5.0 Mission

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By March 31, 2011, the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee (NPCAC) will have facilitated effective, safe nurse practitioner practice through the identification and management of appropriate issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulations contained in RN Act.

## 6.0 Objectives

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By the end of fiscal 2007/08, the Nurse Practitioner Consultative and Approvals Committee will have carried out the mandate of the Committee.

### Measure

- Facilitate effective, safe nurse practitioner practice through the identification and management of appropriate issues

### Indicators

- Review regulations governing the scope of practice and standards for nurse practitioner practice.
- Advise the Minister of Health and Community Services, ARNNL Council the province's regional health authorities on issues pertaining to the nurse practitioner regulations contained in the RN Act.
- Review and approve nurse practitioner specialist protocols.

## 7.0 Appendix A: Strategic Direction

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1. **Strategic Direction Title:** Improved accountability and stability in the delivery of health and community services within available resources

**Strategic Direction Statement:** The health and community services system in Newfoundland and Labrador is moving towards a more integrated model of governance and service coordination with four Regional Health Authorities. Government and public bodies must be accountable to ensure the wise and prudent use of public resources and demonstrate performance achievements. This requires quality information for both decision-making and reporting in the health and community services system. This requires a strategic focus by Government and public bodies to address: Stabilized human resources

**Clarifying Statement:** The health and community services system consumes 46 per cent of all Government program expenditures and this has an important impact on the fiscal stability of the Province. In achieving a quality and equitable system, provincial policies, standards and guidelines are also needed. These will support citizens having comparable access to services. Best practice models for service management and delivery are also essential.

Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is/was		
	Not being implemented at this time (rationale included in the plan)	Addressed only in specific sub-areas (rationale included in the plan)	Addressed in the activities plan
Identification and utilization of information for evidence based planning in service delivery.			*