

Example letter to candidate “Access to Care”:

Date

Mailing address

Dear [CANDIDATE]

As a *registered nurse/nurse practitioner*, I am a professional with both knowledge and experience of the healthcare system and share common objectives to improve the quality of and access to health care for all New Brunswickers.

With approximately 20,000 New Brunswickers unable to secure a primary health care provider, it is clear our traditional model of access requires remodeling. To achieve this, government must be willing to collaborate with health stakeholders, including nurses, and create a five-year, sustainable public access to primary health care program by funding Nurse Practitioner (NP) positions in the long-term care sector, as family care providers and in mental health. Around the world, as well as other provinces in Canada, NP-led community family care clinics are diminishing wait times and improving patient outcomes integrating a collaborative and interdisciplinary team optimizing the skills of all professional health providers. This approach to a health care model sees early prevention interventions, management of chronic and lifestyle illnesses, and improved overall health status while contributing to the sustainability of our public, not-for-profit health system.

To immediately improve access and eliminate the NB patient registry, we must move to implement a robust primary health care system. If elected in September, how does your party plan to improve access to primary health care services in New Brunswick? Specifically, access to primary health care in recognition of the urbanization of our province and the current underutilization of Nurse Practitioners?

Improving access to health services for all New Brunswickers is only one of five priorities being brought forward by the provinces largest health professional organizations, representing 8,600 nurses. A comprehensive joint **Nursing Matters: Election Priorities 2018** website, which includes priorities as well as supporting evidence is available at www.nbnursingmatters.ca. Should you have questions or wish to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate in contacting me [CONTACT INFORMATION]. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[NAME]