

# NURSING MATTERS: ELECTION PRIORITIES 2018



## If elected, 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?

### Recommendations

CREATE A five-year, sustainable public program for access to primary health care by direct creation of Nurse Practitioner (NP) positions in the long-term care sector, as family care providers and in mental health sector.

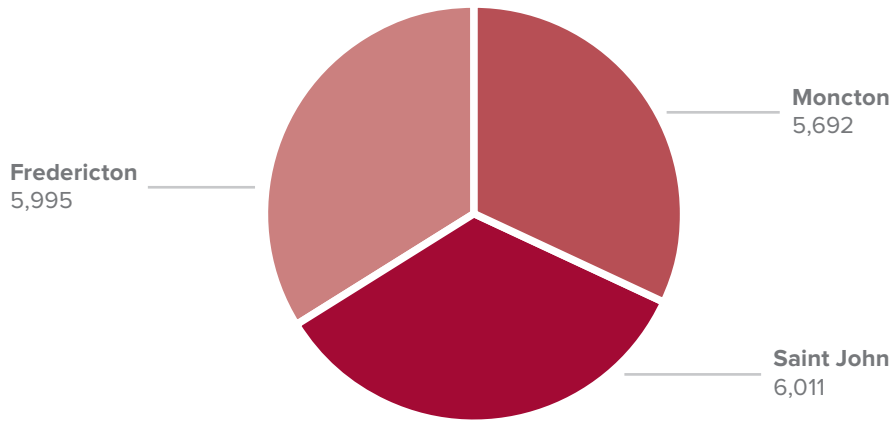
PROVIDE DEDICATED funding for Nurse Practitioner positions.

INCREASE NUMBER of small community family care clinics led by nurse practitioners and with an interdisciplinary team for example; social workers, dietitians, pharmacists, etc.

EXTEND THE Medical Liability Protection Reimbursement Program to provide NPs the same professional liability protection subsidy mechanism used by physicians.

**The Canadian Nurses Association defines Nurse Practitioners as “registered nurses with additional educational preparation and experience who possess and demonstrate the competencies required to autonomously diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe pharmaceuticals and perform specific procedures within their legislated scope of practice” (CNA, 2006).**

**Provincial Zones in Most Need  
(GNB Feb. 2017)**



“Primary Health Care (PHC) is a philosophy and approach that is integral to improving the health of all Canadians and the effectiveness of health service delivery in all care settings. PHC focuses on the way services are delivered and puts the people who receive those services at the centre of care. The essential principles of PHC, as set out in the World Health Organization’s Declaration of Alma-Ata, are: accessibility; active public participation; health promotion and chronic disease prevention and management; the use of appropriate technology and innovation; intersectoral cooperation and collaboration.”  
(CNA Position Statement on Primary Health Care)

## Rationale

20,000+ NB residents on Patient Registry for periods of more than two years; potential to reduce number of persons waiting for a family health provider by more than 50%—several other Canadian jurisdictions currently implementing Nurse Practitioner strategies to improve access to care.

NPs FASTEST growing health profession sector in NB—less costly and as effective as other family care providers.

NPs ARE leaving NB after being educated in publicly funded programs.

NPs ALREADY working in NB nursing homes with excellent patient outcomes: with potential for decreased ER and hospital admissions, decreased infection rates, decreased fall/ injury, improved monitoring of medications and side-effects, high levels of family satisfaction.

EARLY NP intervention for youth challenged by mental health/ substance misuse can enhance opportunities for optimal health outcomes: fewer ER admissions/long hospital stays, return to education, decreased deaths due to overdoses.

## NP Graduates From Both UNB and UdeM

2017	10
2016	3
2015	18
2014	3
2013	7

## NPs Without Sufficient Hours

2018	6
2017	3
2016	1
2015	2
2014	3

(NANB data)