

RPNAS Communiqué

Registered Psychiatric Nursing Proud History/Building for the Future

Registered Psychiatric Nursing in NEPS

With the appointment of psychiatric nursing coordinators in the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan there is now an opportunity for nursing students to pursue a career in psychiatric nursing. Coordinators are located in all three locations of the NEPS, namely Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Regina (see contact information).

The need for psychiatric nurses has never been greater and there are many publications available that document the need for these professionals. One in four Canadians will be affected by mental illness, either personally or within their closest relationships over their lifespan. Consider this rewarding career path if you have a genuine interest in helping others and want a challenging career with many diverse employment opportunities. The burden of mental illness presents major challenges and opportunities.

Registered Psychiatric Nurses have been registered in Saskatchewan since 1948. Please see the websites listed on the other side of this page for detailed and comprehensive information on the profession. The provincial government has recognized the need for more RPNs and offers bursaries for interested students. You must complete a return in service time period employed as an RPN in Saskatchewan.

As a student in NEPS, you are required to complete directed courses to meet the requirements for registration as an RPN in Saskatchewan. You must also complete assigned clinical placements in both acute and community psychiatric settings. Individuals completing the required courses will be eligible to write the national registration exam. RPNs are currently employed in more than 20 countries, and enjoy reciprocity with the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand as well as Bermuda.

Call for Volunteers

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan is currently recruiting volunteers to act as mentors and preceptors for psychiatric nursing students. Please contact the RPNAS office and express your interest. We want to ensure we are able to provide mentorship for our future psychiatric nurses.

We are also looking for RPNs to volunteer at career days and other functions to promote the profession. Please let us know your availability.

Greeting from First Nations University of Canada, Northern Campus!

As the Coordinator of Mental Health/ Psychiatric Nursing Education for First Nations University of Canada, Northern Campus, I would invite and welcome all students and interested parties to contact me at 306-765-3298 for information on this new initiative within the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS). This is an exciting time for all psychiatric nurses as we grow and conceptualize this relationship with aboriginal students and communities within provincial and national levels. I encourage all to participate in promoting and educating our communities on the value and expertise that psychiatric / mental health nurses bring to health care and in particular, to primary health care.

I look forward to serving FNUC, NEPS and the community in promoting psychiatric/ mental health nursing education.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Green RPN, BScMH, MSc

Contacts:

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Saskatoon

Pam Watt, RPN 306-655-6392 Pam.Watt@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Prince Albert TBA

Websites:

Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan

www.rpnas.com

College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC

www.crpnb.ca

College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba

www.crpnm.mb.ca

College of Registered Psychiatric nurses of Alberta

www.rpnaa.ab.ca

Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada

www.rpnc.ca

Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health

www.camimh.ca

Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative

www.ccmhi.ca

To see the reports done by the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (The Kirby Report) visit:

www.parl.gc.ca