

### Maximizing the Scope of Practice of Public Health Nursing in Schools: Towards a National Consensus

Community Health Nurses of Canada  
June 2014

### Canadian Nurses Association

CNA is the national professional voice of registered nurses in Canada.

A federation of 11 provincial and territorial nursing associations and colleges representing more than 150,000 Registered Nurses

Registered nurses: Leaders and partners working to advance nursing and health



### CHNIG

Community Health Nurses Initiatives Group

Since 1978- One of 31 Affiliated RNAO Interest Groups

Goals:

To influence health and social policy, taking into consideration the social determinants of health.

To build capacity in Community Health Nurses.

### CHNIG

To strengthen the profile of CHNs and articulate the significance of their practice.

To promote, engage and maximize membership in CHNIG.

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School Health Committee formed in 2009

Resolution to CNA in 2012

Released policy paper in 2013

### Setting the Context



### The need for change

more of us... living longer... more visibly diverse... chronicity

New models of organization and funding...

- Patient and family centered
- the individual as a whole person, part of a family and community
- broaden the health-care system beyond institutions
- address the social, economic, environmental and Indigenous determinants of health

## The need for change

more of us... living longer...more visibly diverse... chronicity

- Develop public health and population-based policies and programs
- ensure all health professionals, work to their full scope of practice
- financed by publicly funded insurance and monitored for effectiveness and efficiency



## Better health



Canadians are living longer and developing more chronic conditions and diseases, such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

## Better health



75 per cent of good health is the result of factors beyond direct health care...

## Better care

Expanding to the system we need



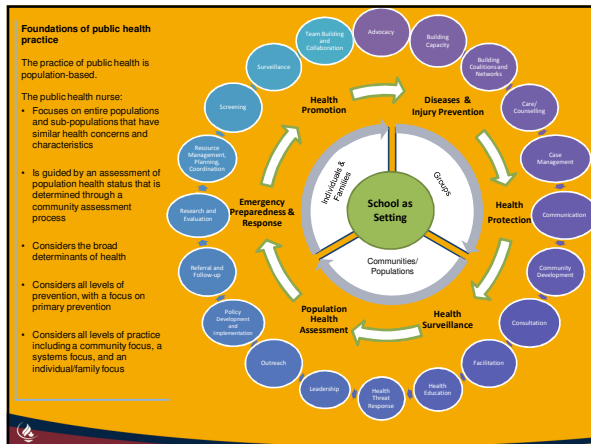
- Promotion of health and wellness
- Prevention of illness and injury
- Personal responsibility balanced with attention to determinants of health
- Improved quality of life and death

## What is happening in Canada

- Canada does not have a national strategy for public health nursing in schools
- There is no one model – inconsistencies exist
- PHNs in schools are not working to their full scope of practice across the country

## What is happening internationally

- Sweden and Finland – relationship building
- UK and New Zealand – engaging youth in provision of services
- Australia and US – support networks, continuing education
- US – measurement and evaluation



Community Health Nurses Initiatives Group	National Association of School Nurses (U.S.)	Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting health with individuals</li> <li>• Promoting health with small groups or classrooms</li> <li>• Promoting school-wide health</li> <li>• Promoting school-board-wide and community-level health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing direct health care to students and staff</li> <li>• Providing screening and referral for health conditions</li> <li>• Providing leadership for the provision of health services</li> <li>• Serving as a liaison between school personnel, family, community and health care</li> <li>• Promoting a healthy school environment</li> <li>• Promoting a healthy social and physical environment</li> <li>• Serving in a leadership role for health policies and programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health promotion</li> <li>• Health education</li> <li>• Infectious disease control</li> <li>• Individual prevention services</li> <li>• Acute health issues</li> <li>• Chronic health issues</li> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• Professional accountability</li> </ul>

### Barriers to working to full scope of practice

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- Lack of clear role definition and role confusion
  - Erosion of relationships
  - Lack of outcome measures
  - Lack of resources
  - Lack of commitment/support
  - Lack of organizational support
  - Need for further competency development

### Enablers to working to full scope of practice

- ### Enablers to working to full scope of practice
- Clear role description and expectations
  - Collaborative relationships
  - Adequate human resources
  - Organizational support
  - Public health nursing competencies

## A window of opportunity

- Minister Ambrose meeting and obviously this is a role for public health and nurses can play a valuable role
- NASN media release and key messages

## National Recommendations

- Invest in a healthy schools strategy
- Develop and/or maintain intersectoral relationships
- Identify schools as a priority setting
- Commit to new resources or redistribute existing resources
- Articulate the role of public health nurses in schools
- Empower nurses to work to their full scope of practice
- Fund research
- Revise job descriptions to reflect public health nursing competencies

## National Recommendations

Advocate for nursing education with strong public health component taught by nurses with student placements

Governments and policy-makers at all levels need to shift their funding and/or policy emphases to new school public health nursing models. Models must include:

- schools as a priority setting for the delivery of public health nursing services
- adequate public health nursing resources in schools
- strengthened collaboration among ministries

## International Recommendations

- Develop national legislation or a comprehensive national policy
- Standardize educational requirements
- Establish formal or informal meetings to reduce the professional isolation and stress
- Provide opportunities for continuous education
- Incorporate the use of new technologies or systems
- Evaluate the quality and effectiveness of public health school nursing

Public health nurses have the potential to significantly influence health and education outcomes of Canada's school-age population. They are well positioned to build effective structures and processes that support school communities to identify and respond to the needs of the populations they serve.

Thank you

Lisa Ashley, RN MEd CCHN(C)  
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