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Initial Questions for the College of Nurses of Ontario

On behalf of

Registered Practical Nurses in Ontario

- 1) CNO identified that one of the main goals of this initiative was ‘to develop a consistent national approach to the entry-level competencies of RPNs” thereby improving “the mobility of RPN labour across the country and ensuring that all RPNs, regardless of where they initially registered to practise in Canada, possess the same entry-level competencies needed to provide safe care. It keeps the public’s interest and safety at the forefront”. The RFP specifically called for prospective vendors to ‘develop and deliver a pan-Canadian practical nurse registration examination in both English and French ‘ How has this goal been achieved with CNOs decision choose an exam that other provinces have declined as an option?
- 2) What stakeholder engagement occurred in Ontario before this decision was made?
- 3) Nurses should have the equal opportunity for national mobility. With this change only RNs will have a national exam. How will the new exam enable national mobility if it is not a national exam? How can you assure Ontario RPNs that you are not creating a two tiered system and more inequity within the profession based on categories?
- 4) In today’s announcement, the College of Nurses Stated that “The collaborative work will ensure competencies covered by the new exam are reflected in what is being taught, and that academic institutions have the time they need to make any necessary changes to their curriculum.” This suggests that the current practice will not drive the development of the competencies that the exam will be based on, but rather the new competencies and exam will drive to changes to education and subsequently to practice creating a potential for changing, even erosion of the RPN role. Can you clarify if this is indeed the intent and what the plan is for the role of the RPN in Ontario.

- 5) In what ways is a US-based company prepared to understand the unique scope of practice of Canadian practical nurses given that there is no equivalent practical nursing role in the US.
- 6) How can you assure the public that you are creating an exam that effectively tests the entry to practice knowledge of a Canadian educated RPN and that the US company will not use the US LPN exam bank questions as a foundation since the education of the US LPN is currently more similar to the Canadian PSW?
- 7) What is CNOs intent related to the current scope of practice of RPNs, again given that there is no equivalent nursing role in the US?
- 8) Does this timeline still apply? “We hope to have a vendor in place in 2018 to begin helping with this project. Our initial goal is to administer the new pan-Canadian examination by 2022”
- 9) Will the cost not be increased because there is not opportunity to cost share with the other provinces?