

memorandum

Nurse Practitioner Education Incentive

Good day,

A new incentive program and additional seats at Dalhousie University will help ensure Nova Scotia has the nurse practitioners needed to strengthen the primary health care system.

In response to the need to expand the nurse practitioner (NP) workforce in primary health care, and as a key component of the Nursing Strategy, the Department of Health and Wellness will assist in supporting up to 10 eligible registered nurses (RN) to complete Dalhousie University's Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner Program (Family All Ages) on full-time basis through a new Nurse Practitioner Education Incentive. An announcement was held on July 13, 2018 for this incentive to begin in September 2018.

This incentive is being implemented in parallel with the temporary increase in NP education seats at Dalhousie University. Nurse Practitioner students supported by the incentive will then complete a return of service agreement in a designated geographical area. This will assist with ensuring there is an adequate supply of NPs in Nova Scotia to meet current and future demands, particularly in areas of greatest need in primary health care.

The designated geographic areas are:

- Town of Digby, plus 50 km radius of surrounding area
- Town of Shelburne, plus 50 km radius of surrounding area
- Cumberland County
- Pictou County
- Cape Breton County
- Inverness County
- Victoria County
- Town of Sheet Harbour, plus 50 km radius of surrounding area

An expression of interest will be issued to those who have been accepted to Dalhousie University's nurse practitioner, family all-ages program. Recipients will be selected based on whether the applicants: (a) live in a designated geographic area; or (b) are affiliated with one of the designated communities and are willing to relocate. All successful applicants will be required to complete a 5 year return of service (2.5 years for every year of full-time study).

To apply:

- The first step is to apply, and be accepted by, Dalhousie University's Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner Program.
 - ⇒ **Important notice:** for those who are interested, but have not yet applied to Dalhousie University, the application deadline has been extended to **July 27, 2018**.
- Once you apply to Dalhousie University, the School of Nursing will provide you with the information to complete the Expression of Interest for the Nurse Practitioner Education Incentive.
- Within your application, you must demonstrate your eligibility and your interest and commitment to work as a nurse practitioner in the primary health care system.

It takes all of us working together, the health authority, government, and communities to create a place where health providers want to live and work. This new incentive will help us with that. By supporting nurses to further their education in communities where we need to strengthen collaborative family practice teams, this will help to enhance access to comprehensive primary health care for Nova Scotians.

If you have any questions regarding the Nurse Practitioner Education Incentive, please contact recruitment.services@nshealth.ca

If you have any questions about the Dalhousie University nurse practitioner program and admissions criteria, please contact Dalhousie University directly.

Sincerely,

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