

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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HLTC2972IT-2012-46

MEMORANDUM TO: LHIN CEOs and Directors of Education

FROM: Vasanthi Srinivasan, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Health System Strategy and Policy Division,
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Grant Clarke, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Learning and Curriculum Division,
Ministry of Education

RE: Mental Health and Addiction Nurses in District School Boards
Program

The Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care and Education are writing in response to concerns raised regarding the allocation of nurses to Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) to work with district school boards (DSBs) through the Mental Health and Addictions Nurses in District School Boards Program. We have heard specific concerns regarding the allocation of nurses to French school boards.

We acknowledge that many of the French school boards cover an immense geography and the allocation methodology to distribute the nurses is not perfect. However, at this time, the nurse allocation will remain as planned until the ministries can review the utilization of the nurses once the program is fully implemented.

The ministries are committed to reviewing the Mental Health and Addiction Nurses in District School Boards Program as well as the allocation of nurses over the next three years. Measures of success will be developed in conjunction with Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs), CCACs, DSBs, and the Entités de planification des services de santé en français. The allocation review will ensure that the utilization of the nurses across DSBs is appropriate and reflects local capacity and needs.

We encourage the LHINs, CCACs, DSBs and the Entités de planification des services de santé en français to begin local conversations on how to maximize the potential of resources that have been invested through the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and with existing resources with respect to French Language services for students. We also encourage the LHINs to work with the CCACs to hire as many bilingual speaking nurses as possible for this program.

We believe that this initiative provides an excellent opportunity to collaborate to address local needs of francophone students with mental health and addiction issues. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and support for students with mental health and addiction issues.

Sincerely,

Vasanthi Srinivasan
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health System Strategy and Policy Division
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Grant Clarke
Assistant Deputy Minister
Learning and Curriculum Division
Ministry of Education

c: Alexander Bezzina, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Accountability and Performance Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Sheree Davis, Director, Community Population and Health Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Education