



**Licensed Practical Nurses Association of B.C.**  
**211-3030 Lincoln Avenue, Coquitlam B.C. V3B 6B4**

Gayle Duteil, BCNU President  
Catherine Fast, Research  
British Columbia Nurses' Union  
4060 Regent Street  
Burnaby, BC V5C 6P5  
Via Electronic Mail: [gayleduteil@bcnu.org](mailto:gayleduteil@bcnu.org) , [cfast@bcnu.org](mailto:cfast@bcnu.org)

Dear Ms. Duteil and Ms. Fast

**Re: BCNU ENews Bulletin October 3 2014 Mental Healthcare Workshops**

The LPNABC is writing in regard to the online e-invitation posted recently that is specific to the RN and RPN only, which is excluding the other nursing designations within the intra- nursing family. We would like to bring to your attention the assumption that only the RN and RPN work in mental health environments which is incorrect. LPNs do work throughout BC in mental health units providing excellent nursing care within the nursing family. The LPNABC recognizes and references all four nursing designations in the family of nurses, LPN, RN, NP and RPN.

The recent BCNU invitation states to submit an application to attend one of sixteen workshops, with the outcome to support the BCNU development of a position statement, part of your "Mental Health Strategy" plan. The recent invite posted only to the RN and RPN is very divisive in a union that boasts to be for ALL NURSES. In BC there are many LPN's who work in Mental Health, who have additional training and are members of BCNU.

LPN's have additional education and experience in the area of Mental Health, not just in facilities but also in community and residential care. Douglas College has offered a certificate distance course for "*LPN's in Mental Health Nursing*" for several years. LPNs across BC have successfully completed this course and work in mental health units.

The LPNABC on behalf of the LPN members in BCNU would like to be welcomed into this research. We would like to support and endorse this important research being developed and moving forward. This special population deserves support from all nursing designations in all areas of care which LPNs are part of the health care system. We nurse together as a team – is that not part of the purpose of nurses being all together in one union?

I look forward to your reply and the inclusion of LPN's moving forward in all BCNU workshops and other educational opportunities for nurses.

Yours in nursing,

Teresa McFadyen, LPN, President  
Licensed Practical Nurses of B.C.

[Cc: Christine Sorenson](#)

October 5, 2014