



# COLLEGE OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**December 13, 2005**

## **Bill 54 Receives Royal Assent - An Act Respecting the Licensure of Practical Nurses**

A new Act Respecting the Licensure of Practical Nurses received royal assent by the Honourable Edward Roberts, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador on today's date. Under this new legislation the Council for Licensed Practical Nurses was re-named and will continue as the *College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNNL)*, a title consistent with several other practical nursing licensing authorities in Canada. This new legislation will govern the practice of practical nursing in the province and will increase public protection and strengthen the authority and accountability of the CLPNNL with respect to Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who practise nursing in the province.

The new *Licensed Practical Nurses Act* reflects government and CLPNNL's commitment to ensure adequate safeguards are in place to protect the public interest in the regulation of the province's LPNs. The new legislation will create a disciplinary process that inspires confidence and is fair and accountable to patients, LPNs, the CLPNNL and the general public. The new legislation will establish new disciplinary procedures and governance structures within the practical nursing licensing body including the creation of a Complaints Authorization Committee (CAC) to initially review all allegations of conduct that could be subject to sanction or discipline, unlike the old process where the board determined the course of action in response to an allegation. The new disciplinary process parallels the system for other self-governing professions in the province such as pharmacists, lawyers and physicians and is consistent with best practices across the country and in keeping with other self-regulating professions.

Other key highlights include a requirement for the development of by-laws and the election of LPNs to the board of the College rather than being appointed by government. The composition of the board will increase public representation from one to three and LPNs will compose a majority of the board membership. The CLPNNL is now required to submit an annual report to the minister of Health and Community Services.

A copy of the new legislation is available through the following internet link [www.hoa.gov.nl.ca/hoa/business](http://www.hoa.gov.nl.ca/hoa/business) and click on the progress of bills option.

For additional information please contact  
Paul D. Fisher, LPN  
Executive Director/Registrar  
709-579-3843