

2022 CNPS Professional Liability Fee Increase for RN Registrants of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing

April 19, 2021

Dear beneficiary:

All nurses in Nova Scotia are required by law to possess professional liability protection, and we are the organization that provides you with access to liability protection, along with legal advice, risk-management services and legal assistance. The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) collects the CNPS fee on our behalf and each year, you pay the CNPS fee at the same time that you pay the NSCN annual licence fee.

Every year, the CNPS assesses the current landscape to determine the appropriate CNPS fees for the coming licensure year, and this past year has been unlike any other. We appreciate your leadership and perseverance, as you provide and guide client care, tackling head on the new and unanticipated challenges faced by our health care system.

The impact of COVID-19, as well as the related changes to nursing practice, also needed consideration in our CNPS fee assessment for the 2022 licensure year.

The role of the CNPS is to work with you to limit your involvement in legal proceedings, to the extent possible, and we will continue to do so. Nonetheless, any circumstance where there has been an unanticipated illness or loss of life can lead to a legal review, whether this takes the form of claims for financial compensation, public inquiries, or other legal proceedings. As your professional liability protection provider, we must anticipate that certain COVID-19 outbreaks and instances of COVID-19 management will therefore be the subject of legal review.

In order to continue to provide adequate support for the resulting demand in services and the potential for legal proceedings, the **CNPS fee requirement for an RN will be \$68.00 + HST annually for the 2022 licensure year**, which represents an additional \$20.00 over the 2021 CNPS fee requirement.

Since you will continue to pay the 2022 CNPS fee at the same time as you pay the 2022 NSCN licence fee, you will see a \$20 + HST increase in the overall fee paid to NSCN, which they collect on our behalf.

The majority of this additional fee will be invested to generate the funding necessary to cover the cost of claims and legal services related to COVID-19. Our goal remains to keep costs and fees as low as reasonably possible and the need for this additional fee will be reviewed as circumstances unfold to ensure that it is both adequate and necessary.

CNPS Services: More than liability protection

As a CNPS beneficiary, you are eligible to seek assistance for the following services, in respect of matters arising from nursing practice:

- Up to \$10 million in professional liability protection

- Up to \$1 million in legal assistance for the defence of criminal prosecutions and investigations
- Up to \$1 million in legal assistance for the defence of an alleged statutory breach, such as child protection, human rights, motor vehicle or privacy legislation
- Legal assistance for other matters related to nursing practice such as representation at a Coroner's inquest or public inquiry
- Other proceedings in which you may be called as a witness
- Unlimited access to professional legal or risk management advice, including pre-contractual review of agreements for the provision of nursing services and participation in medical assistance in dying
- Risk management services, individually or as a group, including educational material on a wide range of subjects and risk management presentations and webinars

This list is not exhaustive. The CNPS aims to provide early advice or assistance, as appropriate, to prevent formal claims or investigations, whenever possible. If you wish to receive legal support or understand your legal obligations in specific circumstances, please contact the CNPS at 1-800-267-3390.

Questions about CNPS Fees

Should you have any additional questions regarding CNPS fees or have any legal questions related to your nursing practice, please visit our [Question-and-Answers page](#) or contact CNPS directly at 1-800-267-3390 or info@cnps.ca.

Sincerely,

Chantal Léonard
CEO, Canadian Nurses Protective Society