

## November 12 - 18 is National Nurse Practitioner Week in Parksville

**PARKSVILLE, BC:** Mayor Marc Lefebvre has proclaimed November 12 to 18 as “National Nurse Practitioner Week” in Parksville. This week provides the opportunity to recognize the contributions made by nurse practitioners to the health and well-being of Canadians for more than fifty years.

Nurse practitioners are expert clinicians with advanced training who provide primary, acute and specialty health care which enables them to autonomously diagnose and treat illness, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications and perform medical procedures. They employ an approach of treating the person as a whole, which includes gathering medical history, addressing physical and mental health and offering ways for a person to lead a healthy life and manage chronic illness.

Nurse practitioners improve timely access to high-quality, cost-effective care in a broad range of health care models. Through their practice and collaboration with other health-care providers, nurse practitioners reduce pressure on the health-care system. They are able to work in a variety of health-care settings, including community care, long-term care, hospitals and clinics.

Nurse practitioners first appeared in Canada in the 1960s. In the early years, nurse practitioners provided care in rural and remote areas. By the 1970s, interest in the nurse practitioner role increased and more education programs began. Today, nurse practitioners are an important part of the health care system. In 2016, there were 4,540 nurse practitioners employed in Canada.

More information about nurse practitioners is available through the Canadian Nurses Association:

<https://cna-aiic.ca/professional-development/advanced-nursing-practice/nurse-practitioners>

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