



Nova Scotia Launches New Streamlined Licensing Pathway and Recruitment Campaign for International Pharmacy Professionals

*More pharmacy professionals are needed to address workforce shortages
as more care is delivered by pharmacists*

December 5, 2023 (Halifax, NS) – Like other health professions across the country, Nova Scotia is experiencing a critical shortage of pharmacy professionals. To address this, the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP) has launched a new streamlined licensing pathway for pharmacy professionals from the United States, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. This change significantly reduces the effort for these individuals to be licensed here, while ensuring the same high standard.

“We know that nothing is more important to Nova Scotians right now than having access to the healthcare they need. We’ve demonstrated in this province the importance of using the full extent of pharmacists’ knowledge and skills in our healthcare system,” says Beverley Zwicker, NSCP CEO and Registrar.

The NSCP used the authority provided by the recently established provincial *Patient Access to Care Act* to waive the national licensing exam and internship period for pharmacy professionals licensed in these countries where the education, licensing process, and scope of practice are of the same high standard as in Canada.

“The NSCP is implementing this solution so that Nova Scotians can continue to benefit from pharmacists in their community playing a larger role in meeting their health needs, while also continuing to ensure the quality and safety of care provided,” says Zwicker.

Aligned with the new streamlined licensing pathway, NSCP and the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS) have jointly launched an international recruitment campaign that includes a microsite and advertising strategy. An RxNS Career Navigator is also now available to assist eligible international professionals to find employment, work through immigration, and receive other supports.

“This is an important step to ensure we have the pharmacy workforce we need today and tomorrow. Our pharmacy teams and pharmacy primary care clinics across the province are having a positive impact on the health of Nova Scotians. We’re excited to welcome more practitioners to help us grow,” says Allison Bodnar, CEO of PANS.

To learn more about the streamlined licensing pathway and RxNS recruitment campaign, visit www.rxns.ca.

- 30 -

For media inquiries, contact:

Leanne Lagsiar

Communications Manager

Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

902.223.1252 | llagsiar@nspharmacists.ca

Martha Lowe

Manager of Communications

Pharmacy Association of Nova

902.422.9583 | martha@pans.ns.ca