

January 17, 2022

Hon. R. Bruce Fitch
Minister of Social Development
Government of New Brunswick
Sartain MacDonald Building
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Mr. Minister:

Re: Advocacy for Infection Prevention and Control Professionals in Long Term Care Settings

Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) fully supports programs which support Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) leads in Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF). This is consistent with the established IPAC Canada Program-Wide Standard which indicates that regardless of the type or size of a healthcare facility, resources devoted to IPAC must be clearly stated and protected.

https://ipac-canada.org/photos/custom/pdf/IPAC_PROGRAM_STANDARD_2016.pdf.

In addition, the IPAC Canada Position Statement on Program Components for Long Term Care Facilities further supports this mandate.

https://ipac-canada.org/photos/custom/pdf/positionStat_LTCH_28July2021_English.pdf.

The Infection Prevention and Control Professional (ICP) position in a LTCF should be a dedicated position, staffed at no less than a full FTE per 150 resident beds, and expanded based on complexity and acuity of the population.

IPAC Canada has published Core Competencies that describe 14 competencies required by an ICP in any healthcare setting (<https://ipac-canada.org/ipac-canada-publications.php>). A competent ICP is one who is able to perform effectively in the roles and functions required by their position and within the team and organization. It is expected that ICPs in any healthcare setting have knowledge and skills in all of the competency areas, although not all of the core competencies identified would necessarily need to be applied in all work settings. (Note: The Core Competencies for ICPs document is currently under review and a new edition is anticipated to be published in February 2022.)

IPAC Canada advocates for trained ICPs who are able to support IPAC in long-term care homes. In summary, the qualifications of an ICP lead or any other ICP position in a LTCF setting should be at minimum:

1. Education – continuing education through any of the IPAC Canada endorsed distance education courses (<https://ipac-canada.org/canadian-ipac-course.php>.)
2. Experience – a background in the competencies required to ensure safe conditions at a LTCF or any other healthcare setting
3. Core Competencies – Achievement of the skills required to ensure safe care in any healthcare setting
4. Certification – success in challenging the Certification Board of Infection Control examination which is used as a measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities of IPAC professionals. The examination may be challenged after 1 year of full-time experience working in IPAC (www.cbic.org).

Representatives of IPAC Canada would be very pleased to meet with you to further discuss the urgency of providing trained ICPs for long term care settings, and the qualifications that will best meet that goal.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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Chair, IPAC Canada Long Term Care Interest Group