

**[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]**

**IPAC Canada encourages recognition of various backgrounds of Infection Prevention and Control Professionals**

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In response to recurring issues around the recognition of various educational backgrounds and opportunities available to Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs), Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) is encouraging all governments and employers to offer the same opportunities to ICPs as those in regulated professions.

A key strength of ICPs, particularly in the current context of the pandemic, is the various disciplines and educational backgrounds our members come from, such as epidemiology, nursing and microbiology. They also possess critical knowledge about infectious diseases and how to take precautions, educate the public and use developing and available research effectively. This diversity of experience coupled with their specialization in infection prevention and control makes them qualified for equal consideration of opportunities as those in regulated professions.

Despite this, many ICPs are ineligible or are not prioritized for certain roles where they would otherwise be well-placed to support efforts in combatting the pandemic because they do not come from a regulated profession. This distinction is particularly disappointing at a time when the specialized knowledge that ICPs bring to their work in all healthcare settings, workplaces and communities is needed more than ever.

IPAC Canada members are ready and willing to fill critical roles in Canada's response to the pandemic but their ability to do so is being limited by this distinction and certain provincial mandates. For these reasons, IPAC Canada is urging all governments to acknowledge the various backgrounds ICPs come from and the critical specialized knowledge they provide by ensuring they are given full access and consideration for employment opportunities as those in regulated professions.

IPAC Canada welcomes the opportunity provide more information to governments, unions and employers on this issue and the qualifications of IPAC Canada members.

*IPAC Canada is the national, professional organization for those professionally and occupationally interested in the prevention and control of infections in all healthcare settings.*

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