

Resolution Sample

Resolution: Be it Resolved that...

the NSCN develop a new practice standard for all nursing designations that clearly defines and prohibits sexual misconduct by registrants in nursing practice.

Please include Resolution background information, which may include: a definition of the issue, relevance to the NSCN mandate noted above and provincial impact of issue:

In recent years, issues around sexual misconduct have surfaced to the forefront in news and media. In particular, the “#metoo” movement has encouraged and empowered survivors of sexual assault to speak out, necessitating all kinds of organizations to critically analyze how they handle complaints about sexual misconduct including regulators.

In some jurisdictions, governments believe that regulators are not doing enough to protect the public from sexual misconduct. For example, in Alberta and Ontario, legislation has been introduced or strengthened to include mandatory sanctions for matters related to sexual abuse or misconduct. While the number of complaints of sexual misconduct by nurses is low in Nova Scotia, the potential harm is very high both for the patient and the reputation of the profession.

The NSCN LPN and RN standards include indicators regarding professional boundaries and a guideline which defines sexual abuse but does not address sexual misconduct. The standards should be clear to registrants and align with the public’s expectations that NSCN has a standard of practice for all registrants that clearly articulates acceptable and unacceptable conduct.

The Mover and Seconder’s proposed actions or strategies for addressing the issue:

That NSCN develop a new practice standard for all nursing designations defining and prohibiting sexual misconduct in nursing practice by:

- Consulting with registrants, the public and key stakeholders as to what elements should be contained in the standard
- Consult with experts in preventing sexual misconduct and treating victims of sexual misconduct as to what elements should be contained in the standard
- Develop a standard that is clear, consistent with other practice standards and code of ethics, and is legally defensible
- Seek feedback from registrants, the public and key stakeholders on a draft standard