

## **Psychiatric Nursing Bridging Program for Internationally Educated Nurses**

This program is a partnership between the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC and the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta. Funding for this project has been approved by the BC Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development under the “Regulator Projects to Increase Access to Regulated Professions”.

The project is designed to overcome a barrier to registration for psychiatric nurses from the UK who will have graduated without meeting the Canadian educational standards in psychiatric nursing in the area of medical and surgical nursing competencies.

### **Positive Impacts**

- The project will remove barriers for UK Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RNMH) who apply for registration to British Columbia and Alberta
- The project will be accessed in the UK and RPNs will complete the courses prior to their arrival in BC and Alberta
- Providing access to a bridging program in the RPN’s home locale will allow them to earn a salary while completing the requirements for registration in BC and Alberta
- Learning will be facilitated as they will be completing the requirements in a familiar environment (UK health system) rather than a completely new environment in BC and Alberta

### **Project Outcomes**

The goal of this project is to enhance the ability of applicants from the UK to meet the education standards and competencies for psychiatric nursing in BC and Alberta, in order to expedite their registration here and to allow them to start working as soon as possible after arriving in the provinces. The College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC and the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta would like to anticipate and remove barriers for psychiatric nurses pursuing employment in BC and Alberta from the UK. It is our intention to offer this program to psychiatric nurses from other countries once the pilot stages are completed and the program has been evaluated.

### **Application Process**

- Internationally educated psychiatric nurses living in the UK apply for registration with the regulatory body

- The regulatory body completes the assessment and determines whether a bridging program is necessary to meet the education standards for registered psychiatric nurses in BC and Alberta
- Applicants who require further study or practice experience are referred to the project
- Participants register in the program and are provided with an orientation to online learning through the contractor, John Collins Consulting
- Participants complete self-paced courses within the allocated time frame, with tutorial support
- Clinical placements are offered in a facility as close to the participant's residence as possible
- On successful completion of all the program evaluations, confirmation is sent to the regulatory body
- Eligibility to write the RPN exam is confirmed by the regulatory body

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact:

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