



National Nursing Students' Week 2021

A message from Kim Withers, Director of Membership Services

Happy National Nursing Students' Week!

My name is Kim Withers, and I am the Director of Membership Services at Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC), the professional association representing all nursing designations in this province, including nursing students.

At some point during nursing school, most of us ask what we have gotten ourselves into. Not to worry, this is completely normal, especially during this time of dual public health emergencies (COVID-19 and the Overdose Crisis) and in a world that can feel very uncertain. As you head towards graduation, you will no doubt feel excited and maybe even a bit scared. All these emotions are to be expected and demonstrate the deep commitment you have to joining the proud and incredible profession that is nursing.

I also want you to give yourself a hand and take a bow for taking a big step by going into nursing school and starting your journey of life-long learning. Nursing is a commitment and also a privilege. You will be present with people at some of the most significant moments of their lives, from birth to death, and all the skills you're learning in school will stay with you throughout your career.

As a nurse, you will take on many roles including care-giver, educator, mentor, advocate, researcher, innovator, and much more. This is why nursing is so integral to the health care system, because it so varied and lets us touch so many aspects of health care.

Way back in the dark ages, 1992 to be exact, I started my nursing journey and continued as a practising nurse until 2018. For twenty-six years I lived the nursing experience. I learned so much from my colleagues, other health care providers, and from patients. I have never regretted my decision to become a nurse even though there were times when it was really hard. You will need to dig deep some days, but just remember that your hard work now will pay off later. Continue to learn and remember that what you have chosen to do makes a meaningful difference in peoples' lives.

All the best to you on your journey, and Happy National Nursing Students' Week!

Kim Withers

Director, Membership Services