

# Support of Advanced Practice: Issues for Nurses in Rural and Remote Canada

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# Introduction

- Literature review of support for Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners in rural and remote Canada





# The Nature of Nursing Practice In Rural and Remote Canada Study

- Survey
- Registered Nurses Data Base (RNDB)
- Documentary Analysis
- Narrative Study





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# Why Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners?

Why rural?

Why support?



# Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners- who are they?

## Advanced Practice Nurse

- **Clinical Nurse Specialist**
- **Nurse Practitioner:**
  - ◆ **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**
  - ◆ **Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner**



# Why Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners?

- RNDB, 2000: 12.7% of all nurses in rural communities work in community health/health centres. Largest increase in place of work (up 3.5% from 1994)
- RNDB, 2000: 1% of nurses work in nursing stations





**Table 6. Frequency Distribution of Canadian Rural and Urban Communities by Age Groupings for Communities with only 1 RN, 2000**

Age Category	Rural Communities		Urban Communities	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
<30	54	0.1	2	6.9
30-39	103	23.1	10	34.5
40-49	127	74.8	5	17.2
50-59	93	2.0	6	20.7
60+	22	5.5	6	20.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: RNDB 2000/CIHI

From: Pitblado, R., Medves, J., MacLeod, M., Stewart, N., & Kulig, J. (2002). Supply and distribution of registered nurses in rural and small town Canada, 2000. Ottawa: CIHI.



# Why Rural?

- Limited Research
- RNDB: Rural communities growing but number of nurses decreasing
- RNDB: Rural communities: 21.7% of total population of Canada, only 17.9% of total number of nurses in Canada



# Why Support?

## 2002 Report of the Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee

- \* Recommendations to improve quality of nurse's work life
- \* Based on Canadian research
- \* Supportive work environments for all nurses are vital

## Commitment and Care: The benefits of a healthy workplace for nurses, their patients and the system ( Baumann et al, 2001)

- \* Synthesis of research literature
- \* Focus on the supportive work environment & identifies other dimensions of support



# Support in Rural Context

## MacPhee & Scott (2002) 10 rural hospitals in Colorado

- \*Satisfaction with support
- \*Social Support-structural & functional
- \*Findings: younger nurses-peer support, older nurses-management support

## MacLeod (1998) 3 rural hospitals in northern BC “We’re It” study

- \* Understanding of everyday nursing practice leads to understanding how to support nursing practice



# Support-Nurse Practitioner

- International work
  - ◆ Limited application
- Canadian studies
  - ◆ NPs in urban settings
  - ◆ Limited exploration of support



# Framework for looking at Support

- Administration
- Colleagues
- Family
- Community



# Administration Support

- Clarification of nurse practitioner role
- Infrastructure
- Continuing education
- Guidelines, policies, standards
- Mentorship and preceptorship programs



# Colleague Support

- Registered Nurses
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physicians





# Family Support

- Mostly ignored in the literature
- Brown & Olshansky (1998)  
when colleague support lacking, newly graduated NPs turned to family and friends for support



# Community Support

- Mostly ignored in the literature
- Nursing role blurs into the community role
- Confidentiality, isolation
- Understanding and acceptance of the NP role



# Next Steps

**My Thesis: The experience of support for primary health care nurse practitioners in rural and remote communities in Canada**





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# The Nature of Nursing Practice in Rural and Remote Canada Study: Funding Partners

- Canadian Health Services Research Foundation
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Nursing Research Fund
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Alberta Heritage Foundatin for Health Research
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
- Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation
- B.C. Rural and Remote Health Research Institute
- Saskatchewan Economic and Cooperative Development
- Canadian Institute for Health Information
- Provincial and Territorial Nurses Associations
- Government of Nunavut

