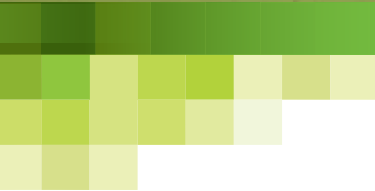




# Northern Nursing Program

Semi-Annual Report - Fall 2015



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
**College of Nursing**  
USASK.CA/NURSING



## Introduction

Semi-Annual Report  
Fall 2015

## Student Applications for 2015/16

In 2012, the College of Nursing began offering a full Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) in Île-à-la-Crosse and La Ronge. In order to keep our regional stakeholders informed about our programming, we have provided semi-annual reporting on program indicators such as student numbers, success rates, clinical placements, outreach and relevant research activities. Following this report, we will move to annual reporting, as we have developed additional and complementary means to communicate with our stakeholders in the Northern Administrative District.

We hope you enjoy the fall 2015 update. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or suggestions!

The nursing seat distribution continues to be five for Île-à-la-Crosse and 10 for La Ronge per academic year. We were fortunate this fall to have a record number of qualified applicants for the Île-à-la-Crosse site, allowing us to admit two additional students to the program there. In total, the northern nursing program has 31 students: 19 students in year two, seven students in year three and five students in year four. Year one is a pre-professional year of Arts and Science prerequisites offered by Northlands College, NORTEP/NORPAC and other institutions.

In all, 90 percent of students have self-declared as Aboriginal and 97 percent are female. In the future, it would be beneficial to recruit more male students into the program.



College of Nursing  
La Ronge students.

Cover image:  
Clinical lab in  
Île-à-la-Crosse.





College of Nursing  
Île-à-la-Crosse  
students.



In 2015/16, sixteen students were admitted into year two of the nursing program; seven in Île-à-la-Crosse and nine in La Ronge. Thirteen of those students have self-declared as Aboriginal. The cohort of students come from communities across the north including three from each of Île-à-la-Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge and Air Ronge and one from each of Pinehouse Lake; Stanley Mission; Southend and Canoe Narrows. This cohort is comprised of all female students with an average age of 25 years. In addition, three students who are

“out-of-cohort” (admitted in previous years) are continuing to complete the requirements of the year two courses.

Overall, retention has remained high for the program. Although a number of students have fallen “out-of-cohort”, only one has discontinued the program. Students have six years to complete the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, although the ideal period is one pre-professional year in Arts and Science followed by three years in the College of Nursing.



## Clinical Placements

Clinical and lab experiences are a very important part of the nursing program and provide an opportunity for students to develop their nursing skills and knowledge.

The following clinical experiences are being provided for northern nursing students in the 2015-16 academic year:

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Year in Program	Course	Number of Students	Location of Placement	Time Frame	Clinical Hours
2	NURS 202	18	La Ronge Hospital Long Term Care Unit and La Ronge Rural Acute Care	December 1, 2, and 5, 2015	24
2	NURS 221	18	Melfort Rural Acute Care Meadow Lake – Medical Surgical Unit Battleford – Medical Surgical Unit	June 1 - June 30, 2016	144
3	NURS 333	5	Melfort Rural Acute Care	September 28- November 2, 2015	156
3	NURS 331	6	Victoria Hospital, Prince Albert Obstetrical Units	June 2016	78
3	NURS 331	6	Rossignol School, Île-à-la-Crosse Senator Myles Venne School & Bells Points Elementary School, La Ronge Pediatrics	June 2016	78
3	NURS 308	6	La Ronge Community Mental Health – Inpatient Mental Health and Addictions Services Lac La Ronge Indian Band-Public Health and Home Care	January to April, then May 2-18, 2016	156
4	NURS 431	5	Lac La Ronge Indian Band - Public Health and Home Care MCCRHA Community Health and Home Care KYRHA Public Health	September 8- December 2, 2015	260
4	NURS 450	5	<b>Preceptorship Placements</b> La Ronge Health Centre La Loche Hospital Meadow Lake Hospital Parkland Integrated Health Center Rural Acute Care	Winter 2016	360



## ■ Employment in the North

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In June 2015, our first northern cohort, of nine students, graduated from the new BSN program. Additionally, one student from our previous NEPS program who relocated to La Ronge when the northern program progressed also graduated with this cohort. The majority have obtained employment in the Keewatin Yatthé, Mamawetan Churchill River and Prince Albert Parkland Health Regions. One La Ronge student who graduated from the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan is also employed as a second year lab assistant in the nursing program.

It came to our attention that many health agencies in the Northern Administrative District require at least two to three years of nursing experience before a Registered Nurse (RN) would be hired in a community Health Centre, given the isolation and complexity of nursing care in remote northern communities.

The College of Nursing convened a meeting on December 16, 2015 to discuss current ways in which the college prepares our nursing students for practice in northern communities and possible opportunities to facilitate knowledge and skill development, particularly as the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA) introduces Additional Authorized Practice registration in 2017, which mainly affects northern RNs. Representatives participated from NITHA, Kelsey Trail, Peter Ballantyne, Mamawetan Churchill River, Prince Albert Parkland and Athabasca health authorities. Opportunities for preceptorship, mentorship, summer employment and other means

were discussed. We will continue to follow-up to ensure adequate feedback and responsiveness to health region needs, ensure reasonable employment opportunities for our graduates and devise joint solutions to shared challenges. These collaborative opportunities help to inform our program and contribute to the accreditation expectations to work with our involved communities.

## ■ Graduate Education Opportunities

The college's Master of Nursing program is offered online, making it more accessible for RNs in rural and remote communities to complete program requirements without leaving home or interrupting their present employment.

All First Nations, Métis and Inuit registered nurses who meet the graduate program requirements are eligible for a \$5,000 award to begin their studies. The college would like to encourage greater Aboriginal representation in health care administration, advanced practice, teaching and research.

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To discuss the graduate program application process and opportunities, contact Jill Brown at (306) 966-6231 or [jill.brown@usask.ca](mailto:jill.brown@usask.ca). Deadline for the Master's (Nurse Practitioner program) is January 15 and the deadline for the Master's (thesis & course-based) and PhD program is February 1 of every year.

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Innovative Learning  
Institute for Circumpolar  
Health participants.

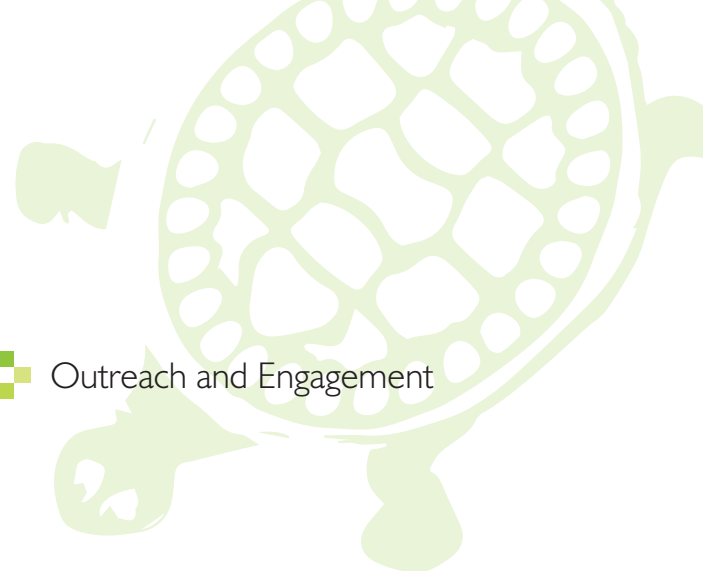
### Study Abroad in Yakutsk

Fourth year students Jeanne Kusch (Île-à-la-Crosse) and Janet MacKenzie (La Ronge) traveled to Yakutsk, Russia (Siberia) in August

2015 to attend a two week Innovative Learning Institute for Circumpolar Health. The students, accompanied by Assistant Professor Dr. Carol Bullin and Continuing Education and Development for Nurses (CEDN) Clinical Education Coordinator Cheryl Cummings, learned about northern and indigenous health care from a Yakutian perspective. This initiative was supported by the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development through their student awards program.







## ■ Northern Nursing Education Network

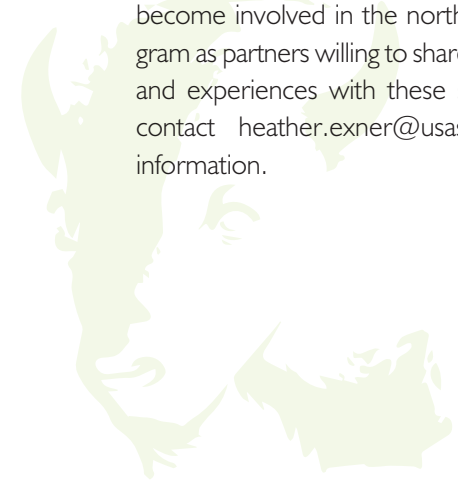
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As a follow-up to the Yakutsk study abroad opportunity, the College of Nursing will be hosting up to 12 students from around the Circumpolar North including: Greenland, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Russia, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, to come to northern Saskatchewan in early August 2016 and learn about health care in our northern Canadian context.

### Educational topics will include:

1. Exploring gaps and barriers to equitable health care access and use for indigenous and northern communities;
2. Examining challenges of health professionals in rural/northern community health, e.g. expectations, confidentiality, ethics;
3. Appreciating the role of the community itself in health outcomes in a northern or indigenous context;
4. Describing and comparing jurisdictional and cultural differences in health care provision across the Circumpolar North.

We would like to invite your community to become involved in the northern nursing program as partners willing to share their knowledge and experiences with these students. Please contact [heather.exner@usask.ca](mailto:heather.exner@usask.ca) for more information.



## ■ Outreach and Engagement

- The College of Nursing co-sponsored and hosted a number of tours for the Northern Administrative Students Association (NASA) 4th Annual Exploration Conference on May 7. The conference saw 48 high school students and 13 chaperones from 14 different communities, from as far north as Fond du Lac, as east as Creighton, and as west as Dillon.
- Heather Exner-Pirot, Strategist for Outreach and Indigenous Engagement and Cathy Jeffery, Director Continuing Education and Development for Nurses presented on the nursing program at the New North Northern Health Conference in Prince Albert September 16-17, 2015.
- The College of Nursing facilitated an Indigenous STEM Role Models panel at STEMFest, an international science, math, engineering and technology festival held in Saskatoon September 28-29 and provided subsidies for busing expenses. A number of northern schools were able to participate in the event.
- The College of Nursing and Northlands College provided bursaries to the five year four students to attend the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch regional workshop held in Saskatoon on November 24-26, 2015. Nursing students Jeanne Kusch and Janet MacKenzie also had an opportunity to share their experience in Yakutsk with the conference participants.



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Mentors and  
Mentees

## Mentorship

The College of Nursing is once again organizing mentorships for fourth year students who will graduate in the spring of 2016. If you are a Registered Nurse working in the Northern Administrative District and are interested in being a mentor, please contact [aboriginal.mentorship@usask.ca](mailto:aboriginal.mentorship@usask.ca) or apply at <http://www.usask.ca/nursing/aboriginal/docs/AboriginalMentorRegistration2016.pdf>.





## Previous Reports

Previous reports are available on our website at:  
[www.usask.ca/nursing/college/resource](http://www.usask.ca/nursing/college/resource)

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