ICN
International
Council of Nurses

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
and
The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister
of Health, Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Canada

17 January 2025

Dear Mr Trudeau and Mr Holland,

On behalf of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the over 28 million nurse worldwide, please let us reiterate our sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Trudeau for taking part in the ICN Congress in Montreal in 2023. The Congress was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and your presence and speech were hugely well received and very impactful.

The ICN Board very much valued the meeting we had with you and Dr Chapman where, you will recall, we had several discussions on health issues including the role of nurses in increasing access to health care, the impact of climate change on health, and conflict and protection of health workers.

We are therefore delighted to see the recent announcement by the Minister of Health of the *Canada Health Act (CHA) Services Policy* which confirms that a service deemed medically necessary should be covered by a patient's provincial or territorial health care plan, regardless of whether the service is provided by a physician or a physician-equivalent.

We have witnessed the impact of advanced practice nurses, such as Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists, to safely and effectively improve patient care and access to health care services, making them more cost-effective and patient-centred.

In ICN's 2020 *Guidelines on Advanced Practice Nursing*, we stated that "governments need to reorient their health systems and support the health workforce, particularly APNs, to effectively respond to promotion, prevention and management of disease." We are therefore delighted that your Government has taken this very important and impactful step to support Nurse Practitioners in their role to meet the increasing demand for timely, accessible, affordable care across Canada.

We would like to recognize the support and leadership of Dr Leigh Chapman, Canada's Chief Nursing Officer, and the Canadian Nurses Association in working with your Government to develop the new *CHA Services Policy* which we believe will be an extremely effective solution to providing all Canadians with timely access to affordable, quality health care.

Yours sincerely,

Pamela F. Cipriano

Dr Pamela F. Cipriano
President
International Council of Nurses

Lisa Little

Dr Lisa Little
First Vice President & Board member for the North American region
International Council of Nurses

cc.
Dr Leigh Chapman, Chief Nursing Officer
Dr Kimberly LeBlanc, President, CNA
Dr Valerie Grdisa, CEO, CNA