

Via email lcjc@sen.parl.gc.ca

May 17, 2016

The Honorable Bob Runciman, Chair
Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
The Senate of Canada
40 Elgin Street, Room 1057
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the Standing Committee:

RE: Bill C-14

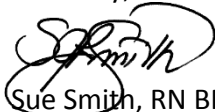
The College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (CRNNS) has reviewed the submissions of the CNPS in respect of Bill C-14 and would like to offer the following additional comments.

As the organization responsible for the regulation of the nursing profession in Nova Scotia, CRNNS supports CNPS' request for clarity in the requirements that must be met to be able to invoke the exemption from criminal prosecution, so that CRNNS may, in turn, establish clear guidelines and standards for our registrants.

While we agree with the notion that any professional intervention should be provided in accordance with best practices, as reflected in the standards of practice, it concerns us greatly that pursuant to paragraph 241.2(7), any breach of the standards of practice could invalidate the exemptions contained in Bill C-14. The content of our standards is determined by reference to known best practices and the protection of the public. They are developed to guide and regulate professional nursing practice, and as a basis to assess the overall quality of nursing care. While they are important in the clinical context, standards are not developed as a basis to assess what constitutes criminal conduct. For that reason, CRNNS supports the recommendation that the reference to provincial standards of practice in paragraph 241.2(7) be removed.

Additionally, we continue to support CNPS' request for clarity regarding the following question: can a registered nurse administer the substance prescribed by a physician or nurse practitioner to bring about the patient's death or does Bill C-14 require that the physician or nurse practitioner be present at the patient's bedside and personally administer the substance?

Sincerely,



Sue Smith, RN BN MAOL

Chief Executive Officer and Registrar

SS/sf