

May 10, 2023



Dear Mayor Nathan Paschal,

Stenberg College is in the final stages of preparing to submit a *Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing* (BPN) program proposal for review¹ to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, British Columbia. We are in the final stage of preparing our submission. The Ministry requires the College to engage and inform our various constituencies as part of the submission process. We are confident that our proposed degree program aligns with advancing the well-being of the Langley City community.

For over 30 years, we have successfully delivered a broad range of healthcare and human services post-secondary programs. Since 2006, the College has continuously offered a two-year psychiatric nursing diploma program to regions across the province. The hybrid delivery has allowed students to remain in their communities while completing the program. With an annual continuing student body of 300 students and nearly 1,100 graduates this program has been one of College's most successful. We wish to continue this success by offering a baccalaureate psychiatric nursing program.

In B.C., there are currently two baccalaureate psychiatric nursing programs offered in the Lower Mainland. We believe that there is a need for additional offerings that extend across the province, especially in light of the Registered Psychiatric Nurse Regulators of Canada having stated that psychiatric nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level are better equipped to meet the evolving scope of practice and the expanded roles that are being required of them within the health care industry². Our proposed program will not only provide baccalaureate preparation but also enhance graduates' employment prospects, increase their compensation, and improve their competency in navigating nursing shortages.

The BPN program is a 4-year degree (8 semesters) completed over 3 years of continuous study and is designed to meet the requirements of the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives (BCCNM) RPN Entry-Level Competencies, Scope of Practice, Code of Ethics, and Professional and Practice Standards.

I am seeking your assistance in meeting the Ministry's submission requirement by asking you to comment on the needs in your community as you see them and to provide a statement of program submission support.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. McInerney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".

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¹ [Degree Program Criteria](#)

² [RPNRC Baccalaureate Preparation as Entry to Practice](#)