



World Health Day 2023: Health for All

A Message from Sherri Kensall, NNPBC Board Chair

This year on April 7th we celebrate both World Health Day with the theme “Health for All” as well as the 75th anniversary of the World Health Organization. This is an important celebration as we look back on the legacy of the World Health Organization which was originally founded to advance global health and safety and continues to advance health awareness today.

The theme “Health for All” is significant as it represents the vision of a future where health care services are readily accessible, equitable, and sustainable for all people around the world, without obstacle or hardship. When the World Health Organization was founded 75 years ago, this concept was central to its groundwork as it was created “to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health and well-being” ([WHO, 2023](#)), and remains so today.

As nurses, we work in roles across all settings throughout our health care system – in hospitals, primary care clinics, public and community health, health education, health research, policy and advocacy, and more. This is why this vision of a world where there is “Health for All” resonates so strongly with our profession. It is at the core of our profession that we seek to promote accurate health information, provide safe, ethical, and compassionate care to the members of our communities, and explore ways to make health care services more accessible, culturally appropriate, inclusive, and equitable for all populations, especially for those in underserved and marginalized communities across our province. Furthermore, particularly amidst ongoing public health crises and health human resource issues that impact this work, nurses are passionate about this matter and can provide much-needed solutions, innovations, and expertise to transform our system.

This World Health Day, it’s important to remember all the ways that we as nurses enact “Health for All” and to continue to elevate the nursing voice in our networks and beyond so that nurses can meaningfully inform health policy and governance. Our nursing profession is broad and dynamic, and as the largest number of health care professionals, united we have a strong and influential voice that can bring about systems-level transformation and true “Health for All.”

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