

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #: 112902

Date: April 18, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

ISSUE: Waitlist for Health Care Assistant program at College of New Caledonia.

BACKGROUND:

- The College of New Caledonia (CNC) currently offers a 35 week Health Care Assistant (HCA) certificate program. The program is offered in Fort St. James, Prince George, Vanderhoof and Quesnel.
- Low utilization in the CNC HCA program between 2009/10 and 2012/13 (avg. 55%) resulted in an agreement between AVED and CNC to decrease its annual FTE target to 36 from 56 seats in 2013/14 and re-profile seats and funding to support other in demand CNC health programs.
- Utilization in CNC's HCA program since 2013/14 has averaged 76%.
- Since 2008/09 CNC has responded to and received one time funding to deliver 8 HCA programs in Valemont, Vanderhoof, Quesnel and Burns Lake through the annual AVED call for short duration health program proposals. This represents 118 FTEs with total funding of \$979,050.
- CNC is currently funded to deliver 30 Health Care Assistant (HCA) seats for the September 2016 intake in Prince George. For this intake applications are still being received and assessed
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 - If there are open seats, some part-time students may be admitted to the program (part time students are last priority for open seats).
- If by September there are more qualified applicants than seats, CNC will keep a waitlist through the first week of the program and allocate seats should any previously accepted students drop out. CNC does not keep a waitlist after the first week of the program. Any students that are not admitted will have to reapply.
- CNC did not submit a proposal for one time short duration HCA seats for 2016/17.

DISCUSSION:

- Ministry of Health includes Health Care Assistants as a priority health care profession and generally supports one time funding of HCA programs in underserved regions across the province.
- The Ministry of Health has identified several other health professions as higher priorities, including but not limited to Specialty Nursing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Medical Diagnostic Sonography, Registered and Licenced Practical Nursing and Respiratory Therapy.
- Factors that impact an institutions ability to expand a program to address student and health human resource demand include: availability of instructional faculty; availability of physical infrastructure (equipment, teaching and lab space); availability of clinical capacity in hospitals, clinics and residential care facilities in the area; and funding.
- CNC has not initiated discussions with AVED to increase HCA seats in Prince George either through an increase in program operating grant or re-profiling of FTEs from existing health programs that may not be operating at full capacity.

NEXT STEPS:

- Through LMPB, JTST will monitor waitlists for CNC's Health Care Assistant program and inform Minister if a waitlist is established.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
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INFORMATION NOTE

Cliff #: 112702

Date: April 5, 2016

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

ISSUE: Radiation Therapist program loan forgiveness eligibility, and Health Care Assistant waitlists at College of New Caledonia.

BACKGROUND:

Radiation Therapist Program

- The Ministry of Advanced Education's loan forgiveness program supports recent graduates in select in-demand occupations who work at publically funded health care facilities in underserved communities in BC.
- BCIT is the only institution in BC that in the past has offered the Radiation Therapy program. Due to low labour market demand, BCIT suspended intake on its three year program for September 2014 and September 2015.
- AVED, and Ministry of Health, in consultation with BC Cancer Agency, negotiated a resumption of the program for September 2016 at a reduced intake size. The program will operate on a trial basis until it is confirmed by BC Cancer Agency that there is sufficient demand for graduates to warrant continued funding and support for the program in the longer term.

Health Care Assistant Program

- The College of New Caledonia (CNC) currently offers a 35-week Health Care Assistant certificate program. The program is offered in Fort St. James, Prince George, Vanderhoof and Quesnel.
- CNC is currently funded to deliver 36 Health Care Assistant (HCA) seats on an annual basis.
- Low utilization in the CNC HCA program between 2009/10 and 2012/13 (avg. 55%) resulted in an agreement to decrease its annual FTE target to 36 from 56 seats in 2013/14 and re-profile seats and funding to support other in demand CNC health programs.
- Utilization in CNC HCA program since 2013/14 has averaged 76%.
- Since 2008/09 CNC has responded to and received one time funding to deliver 8 HCA programs in Valemont, Vanderhoof, Quesnel and Burns Lake through the annual AVED call for short duration health program proposals. This represents 118 FTEs with total funding of \$979,050.
- CNC did not submit a proposal for one time short duration HCA seats for 2016/17.

DISCUSSION:

Radiation Therapist Program

- Ministry of Health uses a points system to determine which occupations and regions should be included in AVED's Loan Forgiveness Program.
- As the Radiation Therapist Program has low registration and low demand it does not meet the requirements for the Loan Forgiveness Program.
- BCIT is currently accepting registration for the September 2016 intake of its Radiation Therapist program.
- The program will operate on a trial basis until it is confirmed by BC Cancer Agency that there is sufficient demand for graduates to warrant continued funded and support for the program in the longer term.

Health Care Assistant Program

- Ministry of Health includes Health Care Assistants as a priority health care profession and generally supports one time funding of HCA programs in underserved regions across the province.
- However, with limited funding available for health education in BC, Ministry of Health has identified several other health professions as higher priorities, including but not limited to Specialty Nursing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Medical Diagnostic Sonography, Registered and Licenced Practical Nursing and Respiratory Therapy.
- Factors that impact an institutions ability to expand a program to address student and health human resource demand include: availability of instructional faculty; availability of physical infrastructure (equipment, teaching and lab space); availability of clinical capacity in hospitals, clinics and residential care facilities in the area; and funding.
- CNC has not initiated discussions with AVED to increase HCA seats in Prince George either through an increase in program operating grant or re-profiling of FTEs from existing health programs that may not be operating at full capacity.
- AVED does not track waitlists for health education programs at post-secondary institutions in the province at this time.

NEXT STEPS:

- Through Labour Market Priorities Board, JTST will monitor the progress and demand of BCIT's Radiation Therapist program.
- Through LMPB, JTST will monitor waitlists for CNC's Health Care Assistant program.

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