

PN Exam Transition Work Group Meeting Minutes: July 26, 2021

Attendees

Lisa Janisse, June MacDonald-Jenkins, Wendy Ellis, Katie Dilworth, Donna Rawlin, Angela Smith, Sushma Khemani

Regrets

Sandra DeLuca, Silvana Macdonald, Lise Bonin, Tania Pynn, Erin Tilley

Welcome and introductions

Everyone was thanked for attending the meeting.

Pandemic check-in

Participants shared that's students are getting hired quickly. This is a busy time of year and planning for the fall is well underway. Some schools are planning the PSW initiative; starting April 2022, the new PSW Extended Program will be offered along with Community and Indigenous Extended PSW.

Panel recruitment update

Many NCSBN virtual panel reviews have been completed this quarter:

- An Item Review Panel took place April 13–16
- A Sensitivity Panel was held May 4–7, with a mini-Sensitivity Panel held on June 22 and 23 with Ontario participants to provide an indigenous focus. The Sensitivity Panels represented diverse cultural backgrounds, people with disabilities, varied ages, gender, French language, ESL and IENs. These panels reviewed items for language, stereotypes, assumptions and inflammatory material.
- A Panel of Judges took place June 15–16 to review the difficulty of items and to recommend a passing standard.

CNO extended a special thank you again to all field testing and panel participants over the past year. We know it was challenging for everyone to recruit participants, especially during the pandemic. Your efforts have helped us achieve these exam development goals. We appreciate your ongoing support!

“Look and-Feel”/Practice Exam launched

The new Rex-PN™ practice exam is now available. This exam helps students become familiar with a CAT-style exam by providing them with two separate practice exams (with 80 questions on each exam). Each exam gives them the “look and feel” of the actual CAT-style REx-PN exam and are available in English or French. Each practice exam can be attempted only once per purchase. They do not have to be completed at the same time, but they must be completed within 45 days of purchase.

A reminder the Practice Exam is not a test to predict whether a writer will pass or fail the REx-PN. Students will receive a score upon completion of the test, reflecting the

percentage of correct responses. Students need to be reminded the actual exam reflects writer performance above the passing standard based on difficulty of questions.

For more information, see the [July REx-PN newsletter](#) which has links to the Practice Exam.

Exam report discussion

CNO thanked the PN Transition Group for their input on report content. CNO is planning to provide quarterly reports that will contain:

- overall pass/fail rate, including first and subsequent exam attempts
- reports for each school, includes program and site data
- comparison with other programs across ON.

An annual summary will also be provided to each school, sharing results related to the REx-PN test categories listed on Rex-PN Test Plan. Initially, this annual report will be available free of charge. NCSBN will eventually prepare annual reports for a fee that is to be determined.

The group discussed best timing for the full reports, and it was suggested that the beginning of Spring would be best when most programs have PN graduates. The first report is anticipated to be in April 2023, once one full year of data has been collected. Once the reports are available, CNO is planning to arrange one-on-one meetings with each program/school to discuss their first exam results to provide context and respond to any questions.

Other discussion

- Engagement to date: Engagement has primarily been via educators. Previous attempts to obtain feedback on content from students or ideas for student engagement have had mixed success. Reasons and other ways to reach students were discussed.
- Transition from CPNRE to REx-PN: Students may write both (if they fail the CPNRE) or wait to write the REx-PN. Ideas on how to best manage the transition and questions were discussed.
- Future engagement suggestions: Fact sheets, website, social media, event days/webinars and student ambassadors were discussed.

Next meeting

Friday, September 17, 2021, 11 a.m. – 12 noon.