

## More Pharmacists in Nova Scotia: International Recruitment Initiative Hits One Year Milestone

*Over 600 qualified international pharmacy professionals have expressed interest to practice in Nova Scotia within the first year*

**December 5, 2024 (Halifax, NS)** – Hundreds of pharmacy professionals have expressed interest to practice pharmacy in the province since the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP) launched a streamlined licensing pathway for pharmacy professionals from the United States, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand on December 5, 2023.

“Nova Scotia is leading in positioning pharmacists within primary care to meet the health needs of the public. The NSCP’s work to streamline licensing pathways is a real solution so that we have enough pharmacists to realize the full potential of a redesigned healthcare system,” says Beverley Zwicker, NSCP CEO and Registrar.

To date, 102 pharmacy practitioners have applied to be licensed in Nova Scotia, of which 32 have completed licensure and 70 are currently still in the process.

The NSCP used its authority under the *Patient Access to Care Act* to streamline licensure requirements. This includes waiving the national licensing exam and internship period for pharmacy professionals from jurisdictions that have the same high educational and licensing standards as Canada.

“In Nova Scotia I can practice to my full scope and really connect with my patients and my team. Was it worth moving here? Absolutely,” says Dave, a pharmacist who moved from Ireland. Sabrena, a pharmacist from New Zealand echoes this, “All the effort I put into coming here was worthwhile. The streamlined licensing pathway made a huge difference.”

To recruit, the NSCP and the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS) have been working jointly on an international campaign. This includes a dedicated full-time RxNS Navigator who works with eligible candidates to assist with employment, immigration, and other supports. Recruitment trips to the United States, Great Britain, and Australia have also attracted candidates.

“We are delighted with the campaign’s impact on the profession, having welcomed pharmacists from all five streamlined jurisdictions in year one. These pharmacists, working in community and hospital settings, are making an impact on patient care at a time when we need them the most. It’s a significant achievement,” says Allison Bodnar, CEO of PANS.

“We are making considerable progress in transforming the healthcare system in Nova Scotia,” says Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston “Pharmacy professionals are playing an essential role in this solution.”

To discover more about the streamlined licensing pathway and the RxNS recruitment campaign, including testimonials and career opportunities, visit [www.rxns.ca](http://www.rxns.ca).

## Quick Facts

- RxNS, an international recruitment campaign led by PANS and the NSCP, launched on December 5, 2023.
- A streamlined licensing pathway is in effect for pharmacists registered in the following jurisdictions (Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, and the USA).
- A recruitment navigator is in place to support international pharmacists through the relocation and employment processes.
- 24 internationally trained pharmacists are currently working and practicing in Nova Scotia through the streamlined licensing pathway with more to arrive in the next few months.

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