



ACCREDITING CANADIAN BRIDGING PROGRAM FOR IENS

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This presentation will provide an overview of a project aimed at improving the quality of bridging education for internationally educated nurses, and ultimately their transition into the Canadian healthcare workforce.

CHWC 2016

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

The project objectives are:

- 1) Create an accreditation program (including accreditation standards) for IEN bridging programs in Canada;
- 2) Pilot and evaluate this program; and
- 3) launch the final accreditation program. Ultimately, this project will contribute to the facilitated integration of IENs into the Canadian nursing workforce.

FINDINGS/IMPACT/OUTCOMES

It is anticipated that this project will result in a national standard for educational programming for IEN education. Uptake of the accreditation program is expected to be high, as many program coordinators and educators have participated in this project. Additionally, a consensus based approach will assist in the adoption of the program. The uptake of the accreditation program will lead to quality improvement and increase consistency of bridging programs across Canada.

CONCLUSIONS

Inconsistencies in programming and fluctuating quality in IEN education are disadvantages to IENs. An accreditation program for IEN bridging programs creates a way for CASN, bridging programs for IENs, and other stakeholders to work together towards a sustainable method for promoting quality improvement.