

Q/A

Questions & Answers

Q: *Why is BCNU going after LPNs again?*

A: The BCNU raid is about exerting control over LPN utilization and they have demonstrated that they will go to any length to achieve this control.

Historically, BCNU has resisted LPNs expanding their role within health care. In the last review of the LPN regulation, BCNU even told government that LPNs should not have the legal right to call themselves nurses.

But despite their efforts – and because we have had an independent voice – LPNs are taking on advanced practice and specialty roles and our numbers have increased dramatically over the last decade.

By refusing to sign a card, you're sending a clear signal to BCNU that they should stop their efforts to control our profession.

Q: *What does BCNU mean by one profession? I thought LPNs had their own profession?*

A: You're right. In fact, there are 26 separate professions designated under our province's *Health Professions Act* including LPNs.

It is disingenuous for BCNU to claim that LPNs are in one profession with RNs. The fact is we are legally our own profession, with our own college, and our own unique interests. That's why our independent voice is important to preserve.

Q: *If BCNU represented LPNs, would I get their collective agreement?*

A: No. You will continue to be covered by the facilities collective agreement. FBA will be bargaining for LPNs in 2012.

Q: *What happens if I sign a BCNU card?*

A: If BCNU collects enough cards, it will apply to the labour board to represent you. The labour board will then determine if they have met the legal threshold needed to move to the next step of the process.

In 2009, BCNU failed to meet the threshold in any of their six different applications. They even tried to withdraw their applications at the last minute. Given their failure to meet the threshold in any health authority, their claim of signing up 3,000 LPNs is simply not credible.