

# BCNU Members Need A Vote !!

Dear Sisters and Brothers.

Enclosed you will find a petition which demands that BCNU council immediately convoke an emergency convention to discuss and vote on the current LPN signup. Section 15.02 of the BCNU constitution and bylaws states that *"the Council shall summon a Special Convention of the union upon receipt of a written request, such request to be signed by at least three percent (3%) of the union membership and to state the purpose for which the meeting is requested."* (Emphasis added) This means that if 1,000 BCNU members sign this petition, Council will be compelled to organize this convention.

The LPN signup will change the face of our union. Even more significant are the public statements of future plans that BCNU has made. The BCNU 2009-2011 Strategic Plan states "for the next three years the BCNU Strategic PLAN establishes four strategic directions.... [including] **(4) grow and represent all healthcare workers in B.C.**" (Emphasis added) The BCNU Associate web site stresses that "we will offer associate membership to all healthcare workers who are not currently BCNU members including RN's, LPN's, nurse practitioners, paramedics and doctors."

**These changes are being rammed through without a membership vote.** The BCNU 2009 convention made no decisions, as the leadership chose not to introduce any resolution calling for the LPN signup. There has been **no** resolution. There has been **no** membership-wide discussion. There has been **no** membership vote. Only Council has had the privilege of deciding.

In September by an overwhelming majority the South Fraser Valley region adopted a motion calling on BCNU to stop the LPN raid until there has been a union-wide discussion and membership referendum vote. A similar motion was adopted by the Central Vancouver region last spring. Over 600 members have signed an open letter to Council demanding a membership referendum. But despite this, Council has ignored the concerns of these members completely. The raid on LPN's has now gone into high gear, despite all these calls for a BCNU membership vote.

**It now appears the only way BCNU members will have an opportunity to vote on this crucial issue is if we force Council to live up to its constitutional responsibilities. To do that, 1,000 BCNU members need to sign the enclosed petition calling for a Special Convention. We ask you to add your name.**

Signed

Karen Clare RN  
Prince George Regional Hospital

Sheena Cunningham RN  
Lions Gate Hospital

Renee Kennedy RN  
Peace Arch Hospital

Maddy Harned RN  
BC Women's Hospital

Heather Lamont RN  
St. Paul's Hospital

Joe Minifie RN  
Nanaimo Regional  
General Hospital

Meghan Morris RN  
Kootenay Boundary  
Regional Hospital

Sam Morris RN  
Kootenay Boundary  
Regional Hospital

Will Offley RN  
Vancouver General  
Hospital

Megan Oleson RN  
BC Compassion Club

Helen Roberts RN  
Royal Columbian Hospital

Sharon Sharp RN  
Surrey Memorial Hospital

Lisa Walker RN  
Langley Memorial Hospital

## **CALL FOR AN EMERGENCY BCNU CONVENTION**

We, the undersigned members of the B.C. Nurses Union, hereby request that BCNU council immediately convene a Special Convention of the union as provided for in Section 15.02 of the BCNU constitution and bylaws. The sole purpose of this Special Convention will be to discuss and decide upon whether or not to proceed with the current sign-up of LPN's as members of the BCNU.

We further request that BCNU make no application to the Labor Relations Board for a certification vote until after this Special Convention has debated and voted upon this matter.

**SIGNATURE**

**NAME (Please print clearly)**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Please fax completed petitions with signatures to (604)  
872-5105 no later than midnight, November 14, 2009**