Semi-Structured Interview Questions

Advanced Practice Nurse
An advanced practice nurse (APN) is a nurse who has a master’s degree and advanced clinical expertise, clinical judgment and decision making skills. The APN also has expertise in critical thinking, problem solving and communication. The APN demonstrates leadership, management skills and promotes collaborative practice. The APN is responsible for program planning, nursing research and providing evidence-based education to colleagues. An APN can be a clinical nurse specialist, a nurse practitioner, a nurse-midwife, or nurse anesthetist (Canadian Nurses Association, 2000; Carnwell & Daly, 2003).

1) Views on APN
   a) Do you see the role of the APN as an important role?
   b) Have you worked with an APN before? What was the APN’s function in that role?
   c) If an APN in communicable diseases and public health was hired, what characteristics would the person need for this role?
   d) What would be the APN’s qualifications ideally?
   e) What working experience would the person need to fill this position?
   f) Would prior experience with First Nations and Inuit people be important?
   g) Who do you see the APN reporting to?
   h) Where would this position be located, Regional or Zone office?
   i) Given the definition of an APN, what would you consider the priorities of this role for your region?

2) What are some of the barriers to implementation of the APN role?

Organizational and administrative levels
   a) Band – Chief and Council
   b) Community – Nurses in Charge, Community Health Nurses, community members
   c) Zone – Zone Directors, Zone Nursing Officers, Program Medical Officers
   d) Regional – Nurse Specialists, Program Medical Officers, Regional Director

3) Support of the APN role
   a) How should the new role be introduced?
   Some examples
      Newsletter introducing person
      Biography on the nursing portal system
      Teleconference with all Nurses in Charge
      Meetings with Regional Nursing Officer, Program Medical Officer, Nurse Specialists
Sharing of the findings from this study
Highlighting the need for additional resources to the Nurses in Charge and Community Health Nurses

b) What are some strategies that would illicit utilization of the APN role by Nurses in Charge and Community Health nurses?

c) What strategies would lead to support for the role from the Program Medical Officers and the Nurse Specialists?

4) Role expectations

a) What are your expectations of the APN role in communicable diseases and public health at the end of 1 year?

5) Is there anything else that you would like to add about the need for an APN role in communicable diseases in your region and the nature of the role?