



## English Language Proficiency Fact Sheet 2019

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNL) has the legislated responsibility, in accordance with the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005)*, to regulate the practice of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in Newfoundland and Labrador. The mission of CLPNL is to protect the public by actively promoting safe, competent, and ethical nursing care.

As outlined in Section 3(b) of the *Regulations (2011)*, to qualify to practice as a practical nurse in Newfoundland and Labrador, in addition to the requirement set out in section 12 of the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act (2005)*, *the applicant* must demonstrate proficiency in the English language sufficient to enable the applicant to practise as a licensed practical nurse in the province.

### Who is required to demonstrate English Language Proficiency?

An applicant for licensure whose first language **is English** may be able to demonstrate English language proficiency in one of the following ways:

- If the primary language where the applicant has lived and worked is English AND there is evidence that instruction in both theory and clinical in the nursing education program completed was given in English. Verification is required directly from the applicant's school of nursing.
- If there is evidence of safe practice within the last two years as a nurse, where services were provided in English and where the primary language of the practice setting and clients was English. Verification is required directly from the employer(s).

An applicant for licensure whose first language **is not English** is required to demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting language test scores from one of the following Board approved language proficiency tests:

Canadian English Language Benchmark Assessment for Nurses (CELBAN)—Official version [www.celbancentre.ca](http://www.celbancentre.ca)

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Academic version [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

### What test scores are accepted by CLPNL?

Test	CELBAN	IELTS
Listening	10	7.5
Reading	8	6.5
Writing	7	7.0
Speaking	8	7.0
Overall Score	N/A	7.0

**How long are test of English language proficiency valid?**

The scores are valid for two years from the date of testing. CLPNNL requires that applicant test scores be dated within six months of the time of application for licensure.

**What if my test of English language proficiency scores expire ( i.e. become more that 2 years old) during the application process?**

Applicants whose test scores expire during the application process will be required to repeat the test prior to being approved to write the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Exam (CPNRE) or becoming licensed with CLPNNL.

**Can I send a photocopy of my English language proficiency scores?**

No. An official copy of the results must be submitted with the application for licensure.