A Blueprint for Action: Community health nursing in Canada

Objective:
To create a visionary document that would lead to action to enable community health nursing to further contribute to improving health outcomes for Canadians. The Blueprint for Action is a long-term collaborative initiative for managing the strategic changes required to enhance community health nursing practice.

Methods:
The foundation for the Blueprint for Action was laid with a pan-Canadian environmental scan of community health nurses (n=900). The Blueprint for Action was developed through a synthesis of relevant documents, along with input from key stakeholders in nursing administration, education, practice, and research.

A Partners Summit was held in February 2011; participants offered their perspectives on the recommendations in the draft Blueprint. The key partners are in a position to take responsibility and to move forward on the actions. Wider consultations are planned, with each phase progressively engaging partners in the implementation of the Blueprint for Action.

Results:
The result is a document that will be taken forward for validation and action. Five priority areas for action were identified.

Conclusions:
The final Blueprint is a compendium of actions identified as being most important. It is envisioned that the Blueprint for Action will be used to guide coordinated action and as a tool for advocacy. It is a practical guide for practice, education, research, administration, and advocacy for community health nursing in Canada and a tool to facilitate and support community health nursing workforce development. The Blueprint for Action is led by the Community Health Nurses of Canada.