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CANADIAN EXPERIENCE OF ESTABLISHING THE MASTER DEGREE DEPARTMENT IN NURSING

The way of nursing development in Canada has passed many stages. Process of its becoming and separating as a profession and also as a discipline began as early as XVII century and lasts until now.

The **aim** of our research is to analyze the establishing process of the professional training of Masters of Nursing in Canada.

The first mention of nurses in Canada dates back to 1617 (Quebec). But the nurses were little similar to nurses, we see them now. The steps towards modern nursing development have been made in 1919 and marked the establishment of the first-ever training program for nurses at University of British Columbia. Four decades later, in 1959, the first university courses to prepare the Masters of Nursing were initiated. At that time there was relatively little research activity in the sphere of nursing at universities. So research work became an important factor at nursing faculties. The functional areas of the discipline (nursing) in these first programs were taken into consideration by the government. The entry requirements were clearly defined: a registered nurse must have a Bachelor's degree, preferably in Nursing; minimum of 2-years experience in clinical practice; high level (B+) and letters of recommendation. As a result, by 1991 year 293 nurses had received a diploma of Master.

The main aim is to prepare nurses for promoting in the sphere of medicine and advancement of actual information in nursing practice in different health care settings; to contribute to the resolution of national and local health problems with a particular focus on nursing practice and nursing profession; to demonstrate advanced

knowledge and expertise in a specialized area of nursing; to resolve complex health issues in a dynamic health care environment.

Almost one hundred years of experience in the training of nurses, Canada has implemented the principle of integration of professional and pedagogical aspects based on graduate continuing nursing education, developed nursing as a self-sufficient and independent industry with the ability to continue further studies and obtain a degree of Master, significantly the social rating of the professions was raised, and allowed us to use their positive experience for the further development of nursing in our country.