Lorena Lopez RN, BScN, MN
Clinical Educator
Trillium Health Partners
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Rita Gogna's application for the RNFOO Nursing Innovation Grant, which will support the expansion of the Transition to Independent Practice Support (TIPS) program at Trillium Health Partners (THP). As a colleague who has worked closely with Rita, I am confident that her leadership, innovative approach to clinical education, and deep commitment to nursing excellence will ensure the success and sustainability of this critical initiative.

Rita's extensive background as a Registered Nurse and Clinical Educator makes her uniquely qualified to lead this program. With over 13 years of clinical experience and a Master of Education in Open, Digital, and Distance Education, she has demonstrated a deep understanding of both the technical and pedagogical aspects of nursing education. In her current role at THP, Rita spearheads several key initiatives, including the Transition to Independent Practice Support Program (TIPS), which is specifically designed to support nurses in their first two years of practice. This program is particularly focused on enhancing the clinical competencies of new and aspiring nurses as well as internationally educated nurses (IENs) both of which are areas of critical need at THP.

The TIPS program is an exemplary model of how Rita combines innovation with inclusive learning to address the diverse needs of the nursing staff. One of the most notable features of the program is the Cart of Knowledge, which brings learning directly to units across the hospital, including evenings and weekends. This hands-on, interactive learning tool incorporates PowerPoint presentations, clinical case studies, and simulation games, which have proven to be highly effective in fostering deeper engagement and improving clinical skills. By providing tailored education that addresses their specific needs, Rita ensures that these nurses are not only better prepared to deliver high-quality patient care but are also supported in their professional growth and integration into the Canadian healthcare workforce.

Rita ensures consistent and accessible learning opportunities for all nursing staff, regardless of their background or the unit in which they work. This fosters a culture of collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the organization, resulting in better team dynamics and improved patient outcomes. The program’s broad-reaching impact aligns perfectly with the values of Trillium Health Partners, which strives to provide compassionate and equitable care to our diverse patient population.

In conclusion, I believe that the TIPS program, under Rita Gogna’s leadership, is not only a highly effective educational initiative but also a game-changer for Trillium Health Partners. I have no doubt that with the support of this grant, Rita will continue to lead innovative programs that enhance clinical competencies, promote inclusivity, and ultimately contribute to safer, more effective patient care.

Thank you for considering this application. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Lorena Lopez
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