



Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario  
Association des infirmières et infirmiers  
cliniciens spécialisés de l'Ontario

# Newsletter

Volume 2020. No 2  
March

## Embracing Opportunities



**Elsabeth Jensen, RN, PhD**  
President - CNS-ON;  
President-Elect, BOD, CNS-C;  
Associate Professor, York  
University;  
Director York-CAMH  
Collaborative.

Since the last Newsletter, your executive has been busy. Paul-André Gauthier and I attended the winter Assembly of Presidents and Queens Park Day. We met with MPPs over breakfast and while my local MPP did not make it, the MPP from North London, Terence Kernaghan did come. Although much of the focus of the meeting was on paediatric health care issues in London, he picked up on the fact that I was a CNS in mental health. I was subsequently invited to meet with him in his London office.

This offered an opportunity to focus on mental health issues in Ontario. We talked about the waiting list problems and the potential of RNs and CNSs having solutions if only the public could access us directly rather than having to navigate the medical referral filter. It also allowed for a good discussion of the value of NPs and NP led clinics where mental health services delivered by RNs and CNSs could be added to the mix. This was his last appointment of the day and went well over the time that had been allotted.

I also represented the Clinical Specialist Association at the Career Day hosted by the Nursing Student Association of Ontario on March 5, 2020. Many of the students were unaware of CNSs or that this could be a career option for them. There was interest and I saw many eyes light up when they saw that a graduate degree in nursing could keep them engaged in direct patient care. The Career Fair concluded with an NCLEX presentation by Tilda Shalof (see the picture). She remembered me from a prior meeting, so it was wonderful to catch up.



## CNSs continue to influence health care positively !

We are moving ahead. I attended the Assembly meetings in September 2019 and February 2020. One thing I can say... is that we, our association CNS-ON, are busy keeping up with the changes and the requests that are made to us. Our collaboration with the CNS Association of Canada is also keeping us busy. We are already planning the next CNS conference in BC for May 2021 !

**Paul-André Gauthier**  
RN, CNS; TCC, DMD, MN,  
PhD (Nursing)  
Past President, CNS-ON  
Clinical Nurse Specialist in  
Palliative Care

CNSs across Ontario and Canada are working together in promotion the role of CNS and keeping it at the forefront of our discussions. Also, we are reminding health care organizations / institutions, other nursing associations and health care associations that we have graduate education in nursing and acquired advanced clinical expertise in one area of nursing practice.

Over the past few years, we have two (2) resolutions that were past at RNAO AGM and CNA AGM in 2018. They mentioned the importance to include CNS in the staff mix.

- *“recognizes the value of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and promotes the CNS role as part of the solution to assist in the management of complex care in the healthcare system through the inclusion of the CNS in the staff mix being presented to health care organizations, and to provincial and federal governments.”* CNS & CNA June 2018.
- ❖ “With regards to the management of the **care of complex** and/or **vulnerable populations**, CNSs are experts in a specialized area of nursing practice, e.g. in gerontology, and can provide **clinical consultation** to assist care teams to develop and evaluate the plan of care for individual patients or groups of similar patients with **complex health needs**. CNSs act as **change agents** at the nurse-patient level by promoting evidence-based nursing practice, at every level of the organization by **advocating for policy change**, and at the broader healthcare sector level to advocate for nursing and patient care needs. CNSs establish **collaborative relationships** with patients, families, healthcare professionals, administrators and other healthcare partners in order to positively impact nursing practice, patient care and policy. Furthermore, CNSs are **nurse leaders** who collaborate for **optimal patient outcomes** and who influence organizations to affect change and **transformation of healthcare**. For all of the above reasons, CNS should be explicitly included in the case mix **as part of the solution** in the management of care of complex and/or vulnerable populations in the healthcare system in Canada.” [ emphases added in bold ]

We are still talking and promoting these elements and require that all CNS members do in their everyday work.

---

<p><b>Webinar:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Elisabeth Jensen</b> presented a Webinar on ZOOM Date: <b>Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b> Time: <b>20:00</b> (ON time) Topic: <b>“Building your research portfolio.”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Register to receive the link for the meeting</li><li>- <u>Send an email</u> here: <b>CNSOntario1@gmail.com</b></li></ul>	<p>To stay in touch with us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>CNSOntario1@gmail.com</b></li><li>✓ <b>ejensen@rناو.ca</b></li><li>✓ <b>pgauthier@rناو.ca</b></li></ul> <p>Website: <a href="http://cns-ontario.rناو.ca/">http://cns-ontario.rناو.ca/</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada-113210988761198/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada-113210988761198/?ref=br_rs</a></p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

---

## **Coronavirus** - *stay informed – check these sites:*

Health Canada (EN & FR)

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Ministry of Health of Ontario (EN & FR)

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Canadian Nurses' Association (EN & FR)

- <https://cna-aiic.ca/en/nursing-practice/evidence-based-practice/infectious-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

- <https://rناو.ca/news/information-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>



**\* An opportunity for Graduate Nursing Students \***

The CNS Association of Ontario is recognizing a **graduate nursing student** for each School or Faculty of Nursing who is currently pursuing studies in the **CNS stream** at the Master of Nursing or PhD level.

**To the Director/ Dean of School of Nursing:**

- Please inform the professors in charge of the CNS stream program about this award.

**Criteria for the award:**

Only nursing professors and / or CNS will be eligible to submit nominations.

**Letter of reference** demonstrating excellence in theory & in a clinical nursing specialty.

- The letter should also include the following information: name, title, address, e-mail and telephone number of the faculty member nominating the student candidate, as well as the candidate’s information. The student needs to be currently residing in Ontario.
- The letter should be supported and signed by 2 professors or CNS who know the CNS student well.

**Student Award:**

A certificate recognizing the student achievement, a free membership with the CNS Association of Ontario for one year and a key chain-CNS.

**Deadline** for submission:

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)

Submit to:

**Clinical Nurse Specialist**                      **Subject:** CNS-ON CNS Student Award.  
**Association of Ontario**                      **CNSOntario1@gmail.com**



## CNS Association of Ontario

# CNS of the Year Award 2020

The **16<sup>th</sup> annual CNS of the Year Award** (first time given was in April 2006) will be presented during CNS Association of Ontario's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please review the criteria and submit a completed application with corresponding rationale for those individuals who you feel should be considered.

### **Purpose:**

To provincially recognize a member of the CNS Association of Ontario for outstanding professional achievement as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the domains of advanced nursing practice. The award acknowledges a nurse who demonstrates CNS competencies and exemplary practice in client care, nursing and health care delivery systems. Current board members of the CNS Association of Ontario are not eligible for nomination and should not be involved in nomination processes.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

1. The candidate must be nominated by a Registered Nurse (both should be members of RNAO in good standing).
2. The candidate has a current Ontario certificate of competence and currently resides in Ontario.
3. The candidate must have current membership in CNS Association of Ontario for one year or longer.
4. The candidate must have **at least 2 years of experience as a Clinical Nurse Specialist**.
5. The candidate must serve as a role model to nursing colleagues by :
  - a. Maintaining an outstanding level of skill and knowledge in their specialty area.
  - b. Utilizing or demonstrating CNS competencies in the five domains of advanced nursing practice.
  - c. Demonstrating quality client outcomes as a result of his/her practice.
  - d. Supporting nurses in the delivery of client care or the advancement of nursing practice.
  - e. Promoting change or collaboration at the system level to improve or impact client care.
6. The candidate actively promotes the role of the CNS.

### **Award:**

A one-year complimentary membership to CNS Association of Ontario, a certificate, non-transferable complimentary registration to CNS Association of Ontario's AGM **June 2020** and a key chain—CNS. The award will be presented at the CNS Association of Ontario's Breakfast Annual General Meeting, held in conjunction with the RNAO AGM. Recipient will be encouraged to attend the meeting. A picture of the award winner will be taken at the AGM and profiled in an upcoming CNS Association of Ontario's newsletter.

### **Selection:**

Applications received by the deadline will undergo review by the selection committee. All of the candidate's information including supporting documentation must be received no later than **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)**.

This deadline will be strictly adhered to in the selection process. The nominators of the successful candidate will be notified prior to notification of the winning candidate. The recipient will then be notified by the President of the CNS Association of Ontario.

### **Instructions:**

1. The candidate should provide information supporting the nomination relating to the specific criteria for the award.
2. All submissions must be submitted individually by the nominators. If submitting electronically, documents must be in Microsoft Word format.
3. The candidate's name should **not** appear anywhere in the body of the material submitted. The candidate's name should appear only on a separate cover page.
4. Two letters of recommendation must be submitted. Both nomination letters must be submitted by Registered Nurses. The candidate's name should not appear in the letter of recommendation. Please refer to the nominee as "the candidate." Each of the criteria must be addressed in the letters with an example. Submission from other individuals may also be included. All information will remain strictly confidential and will not be returned.
5. Selection is made based only on the information submitted.
6. Submit a separate statement of 300 words or less describing the candidate (excerpts will be read when presenting the award at the Annual General Meeting).
7. The recipient of this award will be notified by the week before.

CNS - Form to be completed (CNS for the Year Award 2020) :

**Candidate's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Information on the Nominator:**

**Submitted by :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credentials :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job title :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel. (day) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred e-mail address :**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Address of the nominator :**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please, both (**candidate** and **nominator**) should provide a copy of the RNAO registration

**Information on the candidate:**

**Candidate's name :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credentials :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job title :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel. (day) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred e-mail address :**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Home address of the candidate :**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Work address of the candidate :**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for submission:**

- **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)**

**Submit to:**

**Clinical Nurse Specialist**

**Association of Ontario**

**Subject:** CNS-ON -- CNS of the Year Award.

**CNSOntario1@gmail.com**