

MEMBERS' VOICES: January 1 – April 30, 2009
Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing

**SUBMITTED BY: Carmen Rodrigue, Clinical Nurse Specialist Interest Group (CNSIG)
President ; ccrodrigue@sympatico.ca**

POLICY/POLITICAL ACTIVITY

- Carmen Rodrigue and Paul-André Gauthier (Finance Director) attended the 10th annual Day at Queens Park on January 22, 2009. Carmen was interviewed by Jean Virgile Tassé Themens, journalist of the 'Metropolitain' newspaper (French community newspaper in Toronto). After lunch at Queen's Park, Carmen facilitated a dialogue between other RNAO members and Ms. Christine Pelletier, legislative assistant for Jean-Marc Lalonde (MPP from Glengarry-Prescott-Russell area), who is the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development. Thereafter, Carmen and other RNAO members met with the administrative assistant of Dr Shafiq Qaadri (MPP for the Etobicoke North area) Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Policy. Paul-André Gauthier and other colleagues met with Hon. Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services (from Sudbury).
- CNSIG members responded to the RNAO action alerts with regards to hiring 3000 more registered nurses by sending out letters by e-mail to government officials.

COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA

- The CNS of the Year Award and the Education Award were e-mailed to all members and posted on our website. Deadline was extended for both in order to encourage participation.
- CNSIG continues to update its website.
- CNSIG contributed a segment to the Winter 2009 CAAPN newsletter.

MEMBER SERVICES

- CNSIG newsletter was published in January 2009.
- On January 22, 2009, Carmen attended the RNAO Interest Group Chairs meeting.
- On February 23, 2009, Carmen provided a presentation entitled: 'Assessment and Management of Challenging Behaviours in Persons with Dementia' to Region 10 RNAO members and to nursing students from the University of Ottawa
- On March 24, Carmen participated as one to the provincial partners of the Canadian Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (CAAPN) provincial partners meeting held by teleconference.
- CNSIG held three executive meetings by teleconference (February 2 & 5, March 16, 2009)

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Paul-André Gauthier (CNSIG representative) is a member of the planning committee for the organization of the RNAO Clinical Nursing Symposium which will be held May 27, 2009 in Mississauga, Ontario.
- Carmen (CNSIG representative) participated as one of the Advisory Board members to a RNAO Interprofessional Collaboration Research Project across Ontario.
- Carmen participated in a key informant discussion hosted by Dr. Alba DiCenso, CHSRF/CIHR Chair in Advanced Practice Nursing, pertaining to CNS role clarification & implementation, with other nursing representatives and key stakeholders.
- CNSIG AGM will be held on Saturday April 25, 2009 at the Hilton Suites & Conference Centre in Markham from 8:30-11:00am. If you are interested in participating on the executive, please consider submitting your candidacy for the following openings: President-elect, Director of Policy & Practice, and Student Representative.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION / INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE INTEREST GROUP

- Sarah Benbow has written an article which will be published in the upcoming CNSIG newsletter.

OTHER

- With the economic downturn, RNs are being laid off or terminated due to budgetary restraints.