

MEMBERS' VOICES: October 1 – December 31, 2008
Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing

SUBMITTED BY: Carmen Rodrigue, President of CNSIG.

POLICY/POLITICAL ACTIVITY

- CNSIG members responded to the RNAO action alerts by sending out letters to government officials

COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA

- On October 27, 2008, Carmen provided a presentation about the Clinical Nurse Specialist Interest Group to the RNAO Region 10 members.
- CNSIG is presently in the process of reviewing and updating its website.
- CNSIG contributed a segment to the Fall 2008 CAAPN newsletter.

MEMBER SERVICES

- Carmen Rodrigue attended the RNAO Interest Group Chairs meeting on September 26, 2008. Louis–Charles Lavallée (Director Information Management & Technology) presented his vision of RNAO interest groups websites and possible future modifications.
- Carmen Rodrigue and Lisa Valentine-Lallion (Director of Policy, Practice & Research) attended the RNAO Assembly meeting on September 27, 2008. Carmen, Lisa & Paul-André Gauthier (Director of Finance) participated in a rally that started at Metro Hall to demand minimum health-care standards. Subsequently, many health-care workers from across the GTA marched to Queen's Park.
- The fourth meeting of the Canadian Council of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CCCNS) was held by teleconference on September 30, 2008, chaired by Marcia Carr and Paul-André Gauthier (co-chairs for CCCNS). As Carmen was unable to attend, Mitzi Grace Mitchell (Director of Education & Membership) attended the CCCSN teleconference.
- On December 8, 2008, Carmen (President CNSIG) participated as one of the provincial partners at the Canadian Association of Advanced Practice Nurses (CAAPN) Provincial partners meeting held by teleconference. As reported by Cynthia Struthers (CAAPN President), the International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network conference held in Toronto from September 17-20, 2008 was a success. The next CAAPN biennial conference is planned for September 2009 in St. John's, Newfoundland. Since only members attending the CAAPN biennial conference have voting privileges, Carmen has requested that CAAPN implement an equitable voting policy and procedure for

the next 2009 CAAPN biennial conference to ensure proportional representation from all CAAPN members when voting is requested on proposals, membership fees, etc. (similar to RNAO voting procedure)

- CNSIG held three executive meetings by teleconference (September 29, October 21 and December 9, 2008).
- CNSIG conducted a needs assessment of its membership by monkey survey. Thanks to everyone who participated.
- CNSIG recently published a newsletter, which will be distributed early in 2009.
- Applications for the CNS of the Year Award (deadline February 10, 2009) and the CNSIG Educational Award (deadline March 3, 2009) are presently being accepted. For further information please contact Mitzi Mitchell (Director of Education & Membership) at mitzi.mitchell@rogers.com or mitzim@yorku.ca or see website: <http://www.cnsig.org/index.asp>. Both awards will be presented at the CNSIG Annual General Meeting on Saturday April 25, 2009 in Markham.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- CNSIG hosted an educational activity entitled: “*Clinical Nurse Specialist: Role Clarification*” on Thursday September 25, 2008 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at the Trillium Health Centre – West Toronto Site. The CNSs, who attended this forum, shared their challenges and success stories and also requested that another similar face-to-face meeting be planned in 2009.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

- Sarah Benbow, Student Representative, participates in our executive meetings.