

## MEMBERS' VOICES: April – August 2015

### Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health

**SUBMITTED BY: Paul-André Gauthier, RN, PhD (nursing)**  
President, **Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario.**

**END: Engage with registered nurses to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization.**

- CNS Association of Ontario Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Toronto.
- We have new executive members:
  - Rashmy Caroline Lobo (RN, MSN) is the Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Cardiac Programs at William Osler Health Systems.
  - Dr. Victoria Smye (RN, PhD) is an Associate Professor and Director of the Nursing Programs, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT).
- Nursing Student Awards were given to CNS-MN Student studying in Ontario. They received a certificate, a key chain, and we added them to the list of members:
  - University Western Ontario recipient – Kingsley Au, RN.
  - University of Ottawa recipient – Irene Oliveira, RN.
- **CNS Educational Awards:** we posted the application form for the two Educational Awards in the **August-September's Newsletter 2015**. Deadline is December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and selection will be made in January 2016. It was shared and agreed by the group that it would provide the recipients with more time to attend and then submit the expenses related to the \$1,000 award (for ex. CNS-Tuition fee, or CNS conference). January 2015, these awards were given to Larissa Clemente and Carmen Rodrigue. For more information on this year's award:
  - [http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/sites/cnsig/files/CNS\\_Assoc\\_Ont-Newsletter-August\\_Sept-2015.pdf](http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/sites/cnsig/files/CNS_Assoc_Ont-Newsletter-August_Sept-2015.pdf)
- Members can find information about CNS on our Facebook and Website, and they are invited to contribute.
  - Our website is being updated. <http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/>
  - Our facebook is being updated. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada/113210988761198?fref=ts>
- We have maintained a minimum of 250 members (RNs) over the past years. We do not have any undergrad nursing students. For ex.
  - For Oct. 31, 2011 : 250 RNs
  - For Oct. 31, 2012 : 251 RNs
  - For Oct. 31, 2013 : 262 RNs
  - For Oct. 31, 2014 : 300 RNs → Group discount by RNAO ??
- E-mails are sent to members via e-mails, home office and facebook messages.

**GOOD NEWS !!!**

**END: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health.**

- Paul-André is writing to the newspapers and responding to articles or messages on **facebook** and **LinkedIn** that related to nursing, health, and CNS. He also adds regularly comments on the Facebook of Radio-Canada (radio) for the North and Toronto, and television (SRC-Ontario).
- **Interventions in the media:** Paul-André has conducted interviews on various health topics, including, but not limited to, e.g. food security, getting ready for retirement, cuts in health care,

allergies, palliative care, RNAO report on rural nursing, substitute decision making, nursing ratios, heat advisory (Toronto), surgeons and rest period (research), getting back to school.

- We have been meeting for the past few months with other CNS representatives from other provinces to discuss the official creation of the **CNS Association of Canada**. We are networking also with representatives of Québec; they are in the process of getting the recognition for nurse specialists with the regulatory bodies. We are planning a CNS meeting in Ottawa in November under the hospice of the Canadian Nurses Association.
- Members are invited to submit abstracts to the next CNS conference in USA for March 2016. Usually between 700-900 clinical nurse specialists attend.
  - <http://www.nacns.org/html/conf-2016.php>

### **END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.**

- The CNS Association has been promoting the revitalization of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Ontario and across Canada.
- Our association has the greatest number of CNS in Canada, followed by BC (around 30 members).
- We continue to inform politicians and CNO / CEO regarding the need to have more CNS in health-care institutions to improve nursing and health outcomes and to decrease lengths of stay. The evidence is showing that the contribution of CNS makes a difference in patient care but also in lowering costs, e.g. by decreasing the hospital stay and preventing re-admissions. Please consult the *Clinical Nurse Specialist: The Journal for Advanced Nursing Practice* : <http://journals.lww.com/cns-journal/pages/default.aspx> – Various information is posted on our facebook.

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### **END: RNAO influences healthy public policy to positively impact the determinants of health, supporting Medicare and strengthening a publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system.**

- Over the summer, Paul-André met with the MPP for Nickel Belt, and with the MPP of Sudbury.
- Paul-André met with the CEO of the Northeast LHIN in June.
- Interviews done in the medias.

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### **OTHER:**

- The CNS Association of Ontario co-hosted the RNAO's **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** AGM on April 16-18, 2015 at the Toronto Hilton, downtown. Elisabeth Jensen and Paul-André Gauthier were presenting at the opening ceremonies on Thursday, April 16. One power point was prepared for the RNAO members to see: [http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/sites/cnsig/files/CNS-Association\\_of\\_Ontario\\_April-2015-ok.pdf](http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/sites/cnsig/files/CNS-Association_of_Ontario_April-2015-ok.pdf)
- Elisabeth Jensen, Carmen Rodrigue and Paul-André Gauthier attended RNAO's AGM on April 16, 17, 18 at the Hilton downtown Toronto.
  - Paul-André received the provincial award, *Lifetime Achievement Award* on April 17 at the RNAO banquet. An article on the first page of the Sudbury Star was published to that effect on April 20.  
<http://www.thesudburystar.com/2015/04/19/paul-andre-gauthier-earns-top-honour-from-nurses-association>
  - Paul-André attended the RNAO's workplace liaison meeting on April 18.
- Paul-André and Elisabeth Jensen to attend the Assembly of



President in Toronto on Sept. 25-26.

- Paul-André has been selected this summer to be on the provincial RNAO-MRRC – retention and recruitment committee.
- He continues as Co-Chair of the Sudbury-Manitoulin Ethics Network (**SMEN**).
- The Nursing Week Celebration for the RNAO-Sudbury took place on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Nursing Awards were presented to distinguished members. The Deputy Mayor attended and made the official declaration. Two nursing awards (picture) were presented:
  - Paul-André Gauthier, *Special Contribution to the Nursing Profession* – award.
  - Claire Gignac, *RN of the Year-2015* – award.
- Paul-André presented numerous times since January 2015 on palliative care and euthanasia at the local, provincial, national, and international levels.
- CNS Association's Executive meetings took place on April 8<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Next meeting Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- **Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week**, beginning on the birth date of Dr. Hildegard Peplau - September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending September 7<sup>th</sup>. See our website and our facebook for more information.

