

MEMBERS' VOICES: April – September 2018 **Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health**

SUBMITTED BY:

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Provincial 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 21st, 2018 in Toronto.
- Masters in Nursing Student Awards were awarded to CNS-MN Student studying in Ontario. The awardees received a certificate, a key chain, and were added to the list of members.
- **CNS Educational Awards:** The application form for the two Educational Awards will be posted in the **October 2018's Newsletter**. Deadline is Friday, December 14th, 2018 and selection will be made in January 2019. It was shared and agreed by the group that it would provide the recipients with more time to attend and then to submit the expenses related to the \$1,000 award (for ex. CNS-Tuition fee, or CNS conference). Last January, we awarded 2 awards to CNS-ON members.
- Members can find information about CNS on our Facebook page and CNS Website. All members are invited to send their contribution to be published.
 - 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.
 - For Oct. 31, 2011 : 250 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2012 : 251 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2013 : 262 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2014 : 300 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2015: 270 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2016: 278 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2017: 253 RNs
 - As of September 2018 : 239 RNs
- Regular messages are sent to members on Facebook and on the RNAO email system.

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

- The President is responding to articles or messages on **facebook, LinkedIn**, or our e-mail CNSOntario1@gmail.com that related to nursing, health, and CNS. He regularly comments on the Facebook of Radio-Canada (CBON) and CBC (radio) for the North and Toronto, and television (SRC-Ontario).

- **Interventions in the media:** Paul-André has done interviews on various health topics. Members and CNS-ON ENOs are invited also to do interview to raise the CNS profile in their regions.

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

- The CNS-ON has been promoting the revitalization of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in Ontario and across Canada and the important role CNS can provide in hospital environment. The contribution of the clinical nurse specialists is become more important and required as we are facing and will be facing more cuts in our health care system in Ontario. When clients and patients are unstable and critically ill, they require more RNs and more CNSs to stay alive and get well, not less. The mortality and morbidity rates increase when there are less CNSs in the system. **This is a fact !** We are concerned as CNSs that the facts do not prevail while detrimental decisions are made... in some case, endangering the safety of clients and patients. Additionally, CNSs can contribute to harm reduction strategies in all areas of nursing practice. The CNS Association of Ontario and its members are really concerned that improvements have not been made to change the status quo.
- We have adopted at the RNAO AGM in April 2018, a resolution looking at the inclusion of CNSs in the staff mix. This resolution was also adopted at the CNA AGM in June 2018 (please refer to the website- # 4).
https://myrnao.ca/sites/default/files/attached_files/Resolution%202018%20Final%20from%20AGM%20with%20amendments%20for%20website.pdf
 - Therefore be it resolved that RNAO recognize 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 long term care organizations and hospitals (e.g) and to the government of Ontario.
- We need nursing LEADERS to advocate and to improve further the quality of care in their health institutions and organizations.
- 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 client 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.

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 attended the candidate debates for the provincial election in both ridings, Nickel Belt and Sudbury. He met a few times with the MPP for Nickel Belt, France Gélinas, and for Sudbury, Jamie West (pictures). Jamie attended the Fierté Sudbury Pride walk in July 2018.
- He continues to meet with local politicians and to advocate for nursing and health including the federal MPs Paul Lefebvre (Sudbury) and Marc Serré (Nickel Belt).



- Interviews done in the local and provincial medias as previously mentioned.

OTHER:

- Paul-André Gauthier, as the CNS-ON voting representative, attended RNAO's AGM on April 20-21, 2018 at the Hilton downtown Toronto. Other CNSs were in attendance to hear the concerns raised by RNAO members.
- The president will attend the Assembly of President in Toronto on October 12-13, 2018.
- The president sits on the provincial RNAO-Nursing Practice Committee and the provincial RNAO Membership and Recruitment (MRRC) Committee. MRRC was newly renamed the Membership Recognition Award Committee (MRAC).
- He continues as Chair of the Sudbury-Manitoulin Ethics Network (**SMEN**). His mandate was renewed in June 2018.
- The Nursing Week Celebration for the RNAO-Sudbury took place on Monday, May 7th, 2018. Nursing Awards were presented to distinguished members. Paul-André was chairing these celebrations. It was a collaboration effort for the past 11th year the Mining Week Committee of Greater Sudbury and ONA local 2. This year, members participating were quite enthusiastic and requested that we go back to the same venue as this year and have a full meal again in May 2019 !
- CNS Association's (CNS-ON) Executive meetings took place on February 12th, April 12th, and September 24, 2018.
- **Clinical Nurse Specialist Recognition Week**, the week of the birthdate of Dr. Hildegard Peplau - September 1st and ending September 7th.



We remain concerned about the membership list that we are not receiving from RNAO home office. We discussed this once more at our CNS-ON AGM in April 2018.