

**MEMBERS' VOICES: February - April 2016**  
**Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health**

**SUBMITTED BY: Paul-André Gauthier**  
President, CNS Association of Ontario.

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

- We are hosting our own Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Toronto. A discussion with the executive will follow our AGM. Free presentation for members. See our website for details and to register.
- The CNS Nursing Award recipients are going to be announced on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Two types of awards were posted: the *CNS of the Year* & the *CNS Student Award* (for RNs completing a Masters' in Nursing – CNS stream in an Ontario university). Nominations have been received <http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/awards> or contact the president at [pgauthier@rnao.ca](mailto:pgauthier@rnao.ca)
- We are updating our Facebook and Website to add information and encourage members to contribute: our [website](http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/): <http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/> and our [facebook](#).
- We are posting our reports and documentations on our website, such as Members' Voices, Newsletters, and Awards nomination.
- The executive is meeting regularly to discuss, e.g. concerns, and issues.

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**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 continuing the regular interviews on radio, mostly SRC-Sudbury and SRC-Toronto radio. He presented in early March at a conference of NACNS in Philadelphia, PA, USA – on how to assess sexuality for CNSs.
- We have been promoting the role of the CNS in Ontario, and across Canada.
- We are now members of the national association for the CNS called CNS-C / ICS-C and we have representation from all regions of Canada. See more information at the end of this report.

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

- We are promoting title protection for the CNS educated at the Masters' level in nursing with minimum of 500 clinical hours included in the program. Some provinces are already looking at having title protection for their clinical nurse specialists. As far as we know, Ontario is not yet.
- Employers are hiring RNs to act as CNS, and these RNs are not meeting the requirements to be called CNS. Furthermore, employers call nurses APN...without using CNS title, adding to the confusion. Moreover, there is confusion, not only in the public view, but also among nurses with the terms RPN and APN! We highly recommend the use of: **CNS / APN-CNS / CNS-APN.**

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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.**

- Political action regarding the promotion of CNS in health care:
  - We are sharing our views on political action when representing and speaking on behalf of our association in meetings and media interviews.

- Paul-André and Elisabeth attended the meetings with MPPs at Queen's Park on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. They met with MPPs.

#### **OTHER:**

- We attended the Assembly meeting and Day at Queen's Park on February 24, 25, and 26, 2016 in Toronto. We exchanged with our counterparts with other nursing associations attending the meeting.
- 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: 288 RNs
  - For Oct. 31, 2015: 270 RNs + including Graduate Students (RNs).
  - For Oct. 31, 2016: 263 RNs in progress (as of Feb. 25, 2016).
- ✓ Having over 250 members means that we have enough members to receive a **group discount** by RNAO. We thank our members for trusting our work and providing support to the issues that are imperative to Clinical Nurse Specialists in Ontario.

### **Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Canada CNS-C**

#### **Association des infirmières et infirmiers cliniciens spécialisés du Canada ICS-C**

Mission: The Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Canada (CNS-C) provides a leadership platform through which Canadian Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) impact and influence cost-effective health care system change to support safe, quality care and superior outcomes.

Vision: The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) is an essential component of a sustainable healthcare system.

Latest Communiqué: [http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/sites/cnsig/files/Announcement\\_CNS-C\\_for\\_Canadian\\_distribution-Comm-March%202016-EN.pdf](http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/sites/cnsig/files/Announcement_CNS-C_for_Canadian_distribution-Comm-March%202016-EN.pdf)