

MEMBERS' VOICES: September 2014 – February 2015
Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health

SUBMITTED BY: Paul-André Gauthier & Elisabeth Jensen
Co-Presidents, CNS Association of Ontario.

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

- 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 :
 - Feb. 2014: 269 RNs.
 - July 2014: 289 RNs.
 - For Oct. 31, 2014: 300 RNs + 3 Graduate Students (RNs) Award recipients– (303).
 - Having over 300 members means that we have enough members to receive a **group discount** by RNAO. We are currently pursuing this with the staff at RNAO and hope to have it in place shortly. We thank our members for trusting our work and providing support to the issues that are imperative to Clinical Nurse Specialists in Ontario.
- We are updating our Facebook and Website to add information and encourage members to contribute.
 - Our website: <http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/>
 - Our facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada/113210988761198?fref=ts>
- We are in the process of preparing the next newsletter and the Nursing Awards and recipients are going to be announced on April 18th, 2015. Two awards to be posted: the *CNS of the Year* & the *CNS Student Award* (for 4 RNs studying at the level of Masters' in Nursing).
- We gave 2 Education Awards in January 2015 of \$1,000 each to 2 recipients who choose to attend the NACNS conference in San Diego, California, USA.
- We made two presentations at the B.Sc.N. students from Cambrian College, Fall 2014.
- We responded to e-mail from members and non-members who are interested by our association and activities.
- We are going to host our own Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, April 18th, 2015 in Toronto.



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 CNS Association is working to promote the CNS as a vital member of the health-care team with advance skill and knowledge to better the health of all residents of Ontario.
- Paul-André is writing to the newspapers and responding to articles or messages on Facebook and LinkedIn (his has over 2,000 professional friends) that relate 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 continue; topics such as: announcements of the Minister of Health and Long term care, poverty, minimum wages, euthanasia, medically assisted suicide, violence in long term care, vaccination, preparations for trips under the sun, etc.
 - We are supporting the position that Palliative Care should be available to all Ontarians and not only in hospices or in palliative care units in hospitals but in all health care institutions and in the community. More information is available on our website. Many RNs and some of us (CNS), who are specializing or have specialized in palliative care at the advanced level, are feeling strongly that proper care is paramount in helping individuals in their final journey. We are collaborating with other nursing associations and other palliative care associations in this matter. We are invited to present at various levels, locally, nationally (May 2015), and internationally (June 2015).
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END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.

- Our association has ongoing discussions with the CNA's President and Chief Nursing Officer regarding the collaboration between our two organizations. In Ontario, our association has **the greatest number of CNS** in Canada, as of October 31st, 2014, we had **303 members!** Followed by BC <http://cnsabc.ca/> The CNS Association of BC. We are continuing the collaboration with the CNS across the country.
 - Our discussions are continuing about what our role as a professional association is, and what are the roles of the education sector and the practice sector in making the expertise of graduate-prepared clinical experts in nursing available to the public.
 - 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:
 - Paul-André shared the political action which he undertook in representing and speaking on behalf of our association in his meetings and media interviews.
 - He attended a day meeting with the Social Planning Council of Sudbury on October 15th, 2014. One of their goals is to fight against poverty. The SPCS is a leader not only in Sudbury but also in Ontario, with the type of work done. We commend the work for 16 years of Janet Gasparini, the outgoing Executive Director, a former RN. <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/janet-gasparini/2a/ab6/890>
 - Paul-André participated in the candidates' debate (10 candidates) for the Sudbury by-election on January 29th, 2014. He proposed two questions, one was read.
- Also, we support RNAO's Action Alerts.
- We had the visit of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) President, Dr. Karima Velji, on October 22nd, 2014 in Sudbury. We had the opportunity to discuss the contribution of CNS in Ontario and in Canada.

OTHER:

- We submitted our activity report for 2013-2014 as requested in January 2015. The financial report 2013-2014 was provided in November 2014. We fulfilled RNAO's requirements.
- The CNS Association of Ontario has been selected to host the RNAO's 90th Anniversary AGM on April 16-18, 2015 at the Toronto Hilton, downtown. Mark your dates!
- We attended the RNAO Assembly meeting & Interest Groups meeting on September 19-20, 2014 in Toronto.
- Dr. Paul-André Gauthier was invited, via the NACNS (CNS in USA), by the White House Office of Public Engagement, to join a conference call on Tuesday December 23rd, 2014, the topic: "Invitation: Update Call on Ebola Emergency Funding." FYI: some of us in Canada are members of the American CNS Association, called NACNS.
- We attended the 2 webinars of RNAO on end-of-life on October 16th, 2014 and February 3rd, 2015.