

**MEMBERS' VOICES: September 2015 – February 2016**  
**Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health**

**SUBMITTED BY: Paul-André Gauthier**  
President, 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 : 300 RNs
  - For Oct. 31, 2015: 274 RNs
  - It 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. RNAO home office refuses to honor the request made repetitively.
- 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 May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. 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 have 2 Education Awards in January 2016 of \$1,000 each. Info shared on website, facebook, e-mails.
- The President has made one presentation on leadership to the 4<sup>th</sup> year B.Sc.N. students at Cambrian College, Fall 2015. Presentations to the 2 groups of 1<sup>st</sup> year B.Sc.N. February 2016, to recruit new students-NSO and present RNAO. We recruited a nursing student represented to the local chapter.
- We responded to e-mails 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, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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.
- The President is writing to the newspapers and responding to articles or messages on Facebook and LinkedIn (his has over 2,400 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). He was also speaking on palliative care and euthanasia on the Provincial CBC radio and the National CBC radio. He called on many times as a health expert to provide feedback on health issues.

- 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. Rural and northern localities do not have enough health care professionals to offer basin pain and symptoms control. He chairs the regional committee of the Sudbury-Manitoulin Ethics Network (SMEN) having more than 15 social and health care institutions represented. The topic of euthanasia was discussed regularly and many suggestions were proposed to have a committee to review any request for euthanasia and ensure proper process is followed.
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### **END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.**

- *Great news* !!! We are continuing the collaboration with the CNSs across the country. Many meetings took place in the fall 2015, and with the gathering in Ottawa, we were able to develop the Bylaws. We have been successful in creating and having incorporated our new **CNS Association of Canada** – CNS-C (not-for-profit), a bilingual association. We have representatives from all regions of the country and we have the first executive; representing Ontario : Paul-André Gauthier, treasurer, and Elisabeth Jensen, Ontario region. The CNS Association of Ontario financially supported and proceeded to the incorporation with Industry Canada in January 2016.
  - 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.
  - Paul-André participated in the federal candidates' debate for the Sudbury and the Nickel-Belt ridings on October 2015.
- Also, we support RNAO's Action Alerts.

### **OTHER:**

- We submitted our activity report for 2014-2015 as requested in December 2016. The financial report 2014-2015 was provided in November 2015. We fulfilled RNAO's requirements.
- We attended the RNAO Assembly meeting & Interest Groups meeting on September 25-26, 2015 in Toronto.