

MEMBERS' VOICES: September 2016 – February 2017
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
 - For Oct. 31, 2016: ? (number to come).
 - on Nov. 30, 2016 (new membership year 2016-2017) **206**, our numbers are going down.
- 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 29th, 2017. Two types of 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 Education Awards in January 2017 of \$1,000 each. Info was shared with the membership. One (1) recipient was approved and awarded.
- 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, April 29th, 2017 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 that relate to nursing, health, and CNS. We have international CNS Associations and CNSs following us on Facebook CNS-ON !!!
- 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. The latest interviews were about the Canada Health Act to be renewed **and** get ready to go under the sun... a trip south to warm countries (what to do).

- We are supporting the position that Palliative Care should be a priority of the federal government and a federal legislation should be supporting this initiative – in parallel the end of life (MAID) legislations. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medical-assistance-dying.html>

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

- **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. The new President-Elect is Cheryl Forchuk. She is joining Paul-André and Elisabeth Jensen.
- Are you utilizing the appropriate term in reference to your role / job in health care? If you are a CNS with Masters in Nursing education, **we highly recommend the use of one of these terms** : CNS or APN-CNS or CNS-APN.

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:
 - The President shared the political action which he undertook in representing and speaking on behalf of our association in his meetings and media interviews.
 - The President met last September 2016 with the MP for Nickel-Belt and for Sudbury ridings and the MPP for Nickel-Belt riding on October 13th, 2016.
- Also, we support RNAO's Action Alerts.

OTHER:

- We submitted our financial report 2015-2016 was provided in November 2016, fulfilling RNAO's requirement.
- We attended the RNAO Assembly meeting & Interest Groups meeting on September 23-24, 2016 in Toronto.

=> In January, we have requested the CNS-Ontario membership list from home office in Toronto for the new fiscal year (2016-2017).

Here some of the reasons supporting our request:

The membership list facilitates...

- A quick access to confirm who is a member or not
- Help us to know who is a member in each region / city of Ontario
- To ensure that all executive members are an RNAO member
- To ensure that our candidates and recipients for awards are members

- To ensure that refund provided to a nurse is a member of our IG /association
- To look at how much fund we can expect to receive during the fiscal year
- To communicate quickly with members
- To communicate specifically with one member by locating her/ his e-mail or phone number.
- To look up potential resource person within our membership.
- To look up potential executive members to our association / IG
- To look up potential candidates to nominate for RNAO awards
- To look up potential candidates to nominate for RNAO- BOD or committees

There are probably way more reasons for using our own membership list.