

MEMBERS' VOICES: September 2017 – February 2018
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: 278 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2017: 253 RNs
 - For Oct. 31, 2018: in progress
 - on February 7, 2018 : we had **220**.
- 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 21st, 2018. 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 for 2017-2018 of \$1,000 each. Info was shared with the membership earlier last Fall. Two (2) recipients were 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 21st, 2018 in Toronto.
- We are collaborating with the Staff Nurse Interest Group (SNIG) to develop a resolution that will be presented at the RNAO's AGM on April 20th, 2018. We received 100% support from members from each association following consultations.

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 and/or messages on Facebook and **LinkedIn** that relate to nursing, health, and CNS. We have international CNSs and nurses following us on both **Facebooks** CNS-ON and CNS-C ! We are receiving support and many "likes" from nurses and the public.
- 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 health issues on the local SRC (CBC French), and other Provincial SRC radios. He called on many times as a health expert to provide feedback on health issues. This year alone (2017-2018), he has done over 40 interviews since August 28, 2017.

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 had the Annual General Meeting on October 5th, 2017. We have representatives from all regions of the country and we have good representation from Ontario on the Executive (3/4). The President is Cheryl Forchuk and President-Elect is Marie-Lou Martin. Paul-André Gauthier and Elisabeth Jensen are continuing on the national board. We have 4/10 CNSs from Ontario on the BOD.
- 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**. It helps to alleviate the confusion and to clarify that the nurse is a CNS. It is the role of each CNS to explain what CNSs do in health care and the role we play in improving the level of care. For example, refer to the article of : **Lewandowski, W., & Adamle, K. (2009)**. Substantive areas of Clinical Nurse Specialist practice: A comprehensive review of the literature. *Clinical Nurse Specialist Journal*, 23 (2), 73-90. (An amazing seminal article).
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19225287>
- We are speaking out regularly... For example, the many interviews that we do with the media and the information shared on the social media regarding health issues.

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 2017 with the MP for Sudbury and the MPP for Nickel-Belt.
- Also, we support RNAO's Action Alerts.

OTHER:

- We submitted our financial report 2016-2017. It was provided to Nancy Campbell, Director of Finances at home office, at the end of November 2017, fulfilling RNAO's requirement.
- We attended the RNAO Assembly meeting & Interest Groups meeting on September 15-16, 2017 in Toronto.
- In September 2017, at the Assembly meeting in Toronto, we have asked to receive the membership list of our association from home office and we were denied. Representatives in attendance explained the concerns that we have and the limitations that this present on Interest Groups and Chapters / Regions. In our previous Member's voices, we had made a list of reasons why we should receive our list.
- It was suggested that all RNAO members should be asked if they agree or not, that their names and information be forwarded to our association. In doing so, their consent could help to alleviate all of these discussions and concerns that have been raised over the past 2 years.