

Registered Nurses Association Of Ontario  
**PROVINCIAL NURSE EDUCATORS INTEREST GROUP**

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# ***PNEIG***

## **Newsletter Winter 2002**

### ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

**RNAO AGM** April 19,20,21 2001  
**PNEIG AGM breakfast meeting**  
April 21 2001



### **PNEIG EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:**

Chair: Ann Simmons  
Communications: Gail Beagan:  
[gbeagan@centennialcollege.ca](mailto:gbeagan@centennialcollege.ca)  
Finances: Dixie Goetz:  
[Dixiegoetz@Hotmail.Com](mailto:Dixiegoetz@Hotmail.Com)

### ***GREETINGS FROM OUR CHAIR***

I would like to begin my first message to the PNEIG membership by quoting a passage from a book that truly reflects many aspects of my professional philosophy as a nurse and educator called, "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom:

*"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" by Henry Adams*

Hello all! I am pleased to meet all of you as the "new" PNEIG chair. Although we have had a beginning met with many challenges we are off and running with exciting developments and news to share with you.

I will begin with my story to become acquainted with you and share a few highlights of my nursing career. My nursing career began at a community hospital, in the Maternal Child and Emergency Departments.

Following twelve-years of a truly rewarding learning experience in Emergency nursing my life and career took new direction with a family move to Waterford and a nursing management position at a local community hospital. Nine years later I found myself "on the bus", continuing formal education to complete a Post-RN BScN degree and Master of Education degree.

I have been a clinical advisor in the Distance Post-RN BScN program with Laurentian University and teaching in the undergraduate BScN program at McMaster University. The year leading to the new millennium was indeed a year of professional change and growth. I am honoured to be joining the rich texture of RNAO nursing leaders and colleagues that pride themselves in a commitment to "Speak out for Health and Speak out for Nurses".

It is with respect and privilege that I will lead PNEIG under the direction of you, the members! I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of the Provincial Nurse Educators Interest Group. We have an increasing membership status and we are pleased to welcome all new members. PNEIG received a congratulatory letter from the RNAO President, Shirlee Sharkey, for a 4% growth for the 2001 membership year. The target membership of 675 was met for the year 2000-2001. Our goal, as the executive of PNEIG, is to continue this growth in RNAO and PNEIG by speaking with nursing colleagues and students to encourage their support and commitment to our nursing professional association. As Doris Greenspan, Executive Director of RNAO indicated, "How can you afford to not be a member of RNAO?" Collectively we are heard! Collectively we can make a difference in the system that we are all a part of!

While we speak of new members and growth in our association, the executive of PNEIG would ask individuals from our membership to join our executive team. We are in desperate need of people who are willing to spend an average of a few hours per month to assist us with our goals. It doesn't require a lot of time if we work together to achieve our goals. The positions available to be filled for the 2001-2002 year at the AGM in April are:

*Political Action Rep  
Policy and Practice Rep  
Membership and Education*

Please help us in the coming year to support RNAO and PNEIG. More information on the vacant positions is available from Bobbi Biggs. If you would like to participate but feel that you cannot commit to a full position, grab a friend and share the role!

I would like to thank the executive members, Judy, Gail and Dixie for their support over the past few months. Without their knowledge, commitment and energy I would have encountered many rapids while navigating the learning journey to fulfill the role of chair.

The executive met as a group in the fall to plan our activities.

**#1 GOAL:** One of our major initiatives included improved communication among our membership. Although newsletters accomplish communication, to some extent, we felt that our group would be further developed if the communication strategies were interactive and progressive. To this end we have established a web link to the RNAO site. We are hoping to have this available to members February or early March. So...mark your calendars and wax your surfboards! Catch the waves of news and information on the new and exciting PNEIG website! Link to the RNAO website home page at [www.rnao.org](http://www.rnao.org) then click on the "Who We Are" link. Select PNEIG, Provincial Nurse Educators Interest Group, from the Interest Group listing.

**#2 GOAL:** To support the RNAO initiative of recruitment and retention we are encouraging our nurses of the future to join RNAO. All final year nursing students enrolled in educational institutions will be provided with a complimentary copy of the RN journal courtesy of PNEIG. Thanks to Judy Britnell and our colleagues at RNAO, this project has already been initiated.

**#3 GOAL:** To research the possibility of planning a nurse educator workshop/conference to enhance professional development and networking for our membership. Work has begun for this goal and we would welcome comments, needs and creative ideas from the membership to assist us with our planning. Please send your suggestions via email or to me at McMaster University, School of Nursing, 1200 Main Street West, Hamilton, On L8N 3Z5.

We have the option of meeting with members of the RNAO Center for Professional Development to guide us with their expertise. So unleash your creativity and put your fingers to work by letting us know if you would like a workshop/conference and what you would like to see included.

**#4 GOAL:** To increase our PNEIG award scholarship for graduate studies at the Registered Nurses Foundation of Ontario from one award at \$500 to three awards at \$500 each. We have accomplished this goal for 2001. Our scholarship award for 2000 was awarded to Ms. Margo Devries-Rizzo who is currently studying for a Masters Degree in Nursing at the University of Western Ontario. Congratulations and we wish Margo every success in her endeavors. A letter was received from the President of RNFOO, Beverley Moir asking if PNEIG would like to increase the amount of each award in light of current tuition costs. They are suggesting a \$1,000 minimum be placed on each award. This proposal will be put to the membership and discussed at the PNEIG breakfast meeting in April at the RNAO AGM or feedback is welcomed via email.

### **NEWS AND UPDATES**

**ACTION ALERT** from RNAO re federal government, in consultation with our province, plans to bring in large numbers of registered nurses, as temporary workers, from other countries to address the nursing shortage in Ontario. RNAO is extremely concerned about this issue and request that members send letters to our leaders. RNAO has created draft letters for members to follow. RNAO has asked for as many members as possible to support their stance that temporary workers is a quick fix and will further destabilize the health care system and the nursing profession. PNEIG will be sending letters on behalf of the membership but I also urge each one of you to consider voicing your concerns to members of our government. For sample letters or names of individuals to address the letters to please contact Bobbi.

RNAO Workplace Liaisons, as of November were 114. The Membership Development Officer is focused on increasing the number of Workplace Liaisons at colleges and universities, at the student and faculty levels. If you know of a registered nurse interested in becoming a Workplace Liaison please contact:

David McChesney at 1-800-268-7199 or 416-599-1925, ext 222 or email [dmcchesney@rnao.org](mailto:dmcchesney@rnao.org)

Update on RPN Vocational Standards: Membership Education Committee, under the direction of Kelly Stadelbauer provided feedback on the proposed RPN vocational standards. RNAO wrote two letters of concern, to the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU), that these standards were not completely reflective of the College of Nurses entry to practice competencies. The Heads of CAATS unanimously moved that the new RPN program lead to a diploma. No consensus on the length of the program was reached but two to two and one half years is being considered.

MEC (Membership Education Committee) responded to the Canadian Nurses Association request for feedback on their Nurse Preceptor Guide, dated 1996. RNAO was asked to comment on existing guidelines prior to C.N.A. updating this document.

Feedback on fact sheet, BScN entry to practice: A sheet to outline what BScN education requirements will mean to the role of the nurse. This document was created to educate the public about the change and how this change will impact on the role of the nurse.

MEC members raised concerns that students sponsored to move to study area work in the North be given a realistic picture of working conditions especially if indebted for work service. Students would need an orientation to the realities of working in remote communities.

Bobbi attended the Assembly Interest Group Chairpersons Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Ann Brokenshire presented a summary of discussions and updates from the (RNAO Interest Group Chair). Some key issues from board meeting were:

- Nursing Shortage: the need for long term solutions instead of quick fixes
- Limited Clinical Placements for Student Nurses
- Need benchmarks to assess RNAO and Interest Group Leaders, may represent criteria for members to choose their leaders
- Members need to educate the public in their own communities about the role of the nurse and our initiatives to respond to key issues that will affect the health care system now and in the future
- Need to poll memberships to establish how many times per year they would like to receive a newsletter.
- Strategic planning for Interest Groups should be completed as soon after the AGM as possible
- Discussed the option of having shared agendas at the AGM so people belonging to more than one Interest Group could attend the meetings.

Bobbi attended the January 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly Meeting held in Toronto.  
Some highlights from this meeting were:

The day at Queen's Park was very successful with good discussion between RNAO representatives and political leaders. The Premier of Ontario sent his regrets. Shirlee Sharkey indicated the need to engage the public and demonstrate some alternatives to the current state the health care system. In order to modernize healthcare we need to "**transform**" it.

A reminder that retention of our nurses is equally as important as the recruitment of nurses into our profession. We need to target Human Resource people to see the words "permanent" and "education" in our workplace settings. "Learning" must be reenergized in an effort to promote quality in our workplaces.

A statement from the membership proposed targeting elementary as well as secondary schools to recruit nurses. Students are thinking about and planning career options much sooner now. A speaking package will soon be available from RNAO if anyone is interested in approaching the schools to talk about a career in nursing.

A reminder to all members of the 2001 Gala Dinner sponsored by RNFOO at The Old Mill, Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at 6pm. The contact person is Denise King, 416- 599-1925 ext.212 or by email: [foundation@rnao.org](mailto:foundation@rnao.org)

A report that RNAO was present at the Joshua Fleuelling Coroners' Inquest. Shirlee represented RNAO's position that the tragic death of Joshua was, in part, the result of system failures. RNAO presented 12 recommendations from which 11 were fully accepted.

**We would like to appeal to the membership to anyone interested in representing PNEIG at the 2001 AGM as a voting delegate. The dates for attendance would be:**

**Thursday evening April 19<sup>th</sup> and all day Friday. (Of course you would want to spend one more night to attend the PNEIG breakfast meeting!)**

**Bobbi was the PNEIG voting delegate last year and will share her thoughts and experiences with you. Your role is to vote on the bylaws and resolutions that affect the future of RNAO. It is an exciting way to learn and get involved with the organization. I guarantee that you will experience collegiality and friendship first-hand. Expenses for travel, hotel and meals are reimbursed by RNAO, so all you need to do is submit your name.**

**Please contact Bobbi Biggs: [bobbi.biggs@sympatico.ca](mailto:bobbi.biggs@sympatico.ca) or call Ext. 22407**

March 8, 2001

YORK-SENECA-GEORGIAN-DURHAM COLLABORATIVE BScN PROGRAM

The first group of students in the Collaborative BScN Program offered by York University and Georgian and Seneca Colleges are in their Integrative Practicum and one month from completing their undergraduate education. York has offered a part-time BScN program since 1993 and the full-time Collaborative Program began in 1997, with the first intake at York in September 1999. The model for delivery of this fully integrated caring curriculum is geographic articulation. Students begin their program in one of the partner College sites and proceed to York for their final two years. A central coordinating committee, and its subcommittees such as Theory-Practice and Program Evaluation, ensure the program enacts our human science philosophy across the four years. The curriculum reflects a concern for lived experience, social context, health and healing and caring relationships.

Our partnership expanded in December 2000 with the welcome addition of Durham College. A comprehensive curriculum review and site visit by a team of faculty from the three existing partners revealed congruence with the caring curriculum which had been implemented in consultation with Georgian College. Students from Durham College are applying for September 2001 at York. Another significant initiative is the review and redesign of our Post-RN Program. We are undergoing University Program Review simultaneously and, with the guidance of a variety of stakeholders, have a plan for a streamlined, current and relevant program.

Students at the School of Nursing at York have initiated and continue to lead a Collaborative Student-Faculty Council. They have developed educational materials for preceptors and for students considering the transition to the York campus. Student-faculty relationships are the basis for teaching-learning and formative evaluation. We were visited by a CAUSN accreditation review team in March 2000 and have been granted candidacy status. The reviewers' comments after their whirlwind days on three campuses and in clinical agencies were encouraging of our efforts and growth.

Administrative support for the Collaborative Program is strong and enduring. Further infusions of promised government funds for collaborative nursing programs would not go astray! The School of Nursing, in the Joseph E. Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, has tripled in faculty over the past three years. We have faculty in regular tenure stream positions, alternative tenure stream positions, which focus on teaching excellence and clinical practice, and contractually limited positions. New faculty have been supported by experienced colleagues from all our sites, the introduction of a Theory-Practice Coordinator and an international research project which is a yearlong Institute for faculty development. Our emphasis on praxis for faculty and students means that we inquire into ways of being and knowing as a basis for nursing practice.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Lindsay, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, York University,  
([glindsay@yorku.ca](mailto:glindsay@yorku.ca))

**Look for the PNEIG**

**Web site**

**Coming Soon**

**It will be linked with [www.RNAO.org](http://www.RNAO.org)**