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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PNEIG Member:

It is now the New Year of 2006 and you are reading the second PNEIG Connection newsletter. I trust you had an enjoyable holiday season with family and friends. We at PNEIG are looking forward to a productive year yet again. I hope you find the contents of this newsletter informative and beneficial. I would like to share what has transpired since the fall.

In October, we had our first retreat at the Kingsbridge Centre in King City. It was a strategic planning retreat where interested members came together to determine priorities for our Interest Group. We had the pleasure of having Tricia Hasenclever as an afternoon speaker who gave us a humorous look at "stress". Through humor, we can recognize the damaging effect it can

have on us and she gave us all practical yet fun ways of dealing with it. It must have worked because the team then moved on to develop some excellent ideas on how to make our Interest Group productive and profitable for this coming year! This was accomplished as Doug Rosser capably facilitated us through identifying our challenges, limitations, strengths and opportunities. With these in mind, we feel we are well on the way to providing the membership with concrete material.

Some of the accomplishments are as follows:

- A new tentative vision statement was developed:
"Provide leadership for excellence in teaching and learning for nursing in Ontario".
- The purpose and objectives were reviewed and revised and will be presented to the membership for consideration at the April Annual General Meeting (posted on the revitalized website for your consideration).
- Our financial position was reviewed and has become centrally located. (we continue to have adequate finances to move forward with goals and objectives)

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- A planning team was developed for a May 2006 symposium (further information available in this newsletter)
- Identification of 4 possible resolutions which members will develop and bring forward at either this April or future RNAO AGMs
- Discussion of scholarships and awards: possibility of scholarships for nursing students to be offered through NSO (Nursing Students of Ontario), and additional awards in nursing research.

This is just a quick picture of the many items discussed at the retreat. If you have a particular interest in an area, we welcome your contribution. In particular, we would like to develop a marketing team to review some suggestions that were brought forward at the retreat. Please contact me with your interest.

As we move ahead in the coming months, please consider how the Executive can further meet your needs. We are also very interested in your involvement in the Interest Group and we will value your expertise, either for a short-term project or an extended period of time. To paraphrase Florence Nightingale, the membership is only as strong as its members.

Professionally yours,
Marianne Cochrane

CASN NURSING EDUCATION CONFERENCE UPDATE HELD IN MONTREAL IN NOVEMBER 2005

*Submitted by: Marianne Cochrane
Faculty at DC/UOIT, Oshawa, ON*

I had the opportunity to attend my first CASN education conference, which was held November 23-26th, 2005 in Montreal. In addition to the good shopping that Montreal had to offer (which I took advantage of) I gained much from the speakers

I was able to hear. The theme, "The Power of Education: Embracing Science and Compassion" was of interest to me and the other 200+ attendees. It highlighted the fundamental underpinnings and driving forces in nursing education and practice today. Three streams were presented: transcultural nursing education, inter-professional education and evidence-based approaches to education. Although I tried to attend all three streams as they were all so interesting, I found myself selecting the evidence-based approach stream more than the others. The opening keynote speaker, Dr. Francine Saillant, spoke on "compassion and caring" along with the duality of "cure and care". The panel discussion included Johanne Goudreau, David Gregory and Sandra MacDonald-Renca. Each presented one of the identified streams. Of particular interest is the forthcoming Nurses' Portal, a Health Canada initiative, which will be launched at the next CNA Biannual Conference in June 2006. The closing keynote speaker was Dr. Pamela Ironside from University of Wisconsin Madison. Her talk covered the concept of Narrative Pedagogies and gave me new ideas on how to incorporate this into my teaching opportunities. One concurrent speaker, which really impressed me, was Madeleine Buck's presentation "Why a PhD is required to give a Bed Bath". This thoughtful and inspiring talk really brought home the reason we are nurses and why furthering our education is a necessity for providing patient-centered care.

All in all, the conference certainly offered me a means to explore and develop partnerships across the country and learn from others about ways to improve and broaden my teaching abilities. I highly recommend attending next year when it will be held in Victoria B.C. (more good shopping!!). The conference was well worth it.

GTA CONSORTIUM MEETING UPDATE

Submitted by: Ann Brokenshire

The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Consortium is collaboration between educational institutions and employers who offer placement opportunities to student nurses. It meets regularly to discuss issues that arise from both stakeholders. The energy and enthusiasm for working together is awesome, in the true meaning of the word. This report is derived from the minutes of the meeting.

PLACEMENTS FOR STUDENTS IN MENTAL HEALTH

A representative from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care gave a presentation on the opportunities for clinical placements in the mental health area. A web site will be launched shortly. It is hoped that having placements in mental health will encourage more students to work in the mental health field. The emphasis is on placement by school coordinator, not student self referral.

UPDATE ON NURSING CLINICAL DATA BASE PROJECT

The consultant who is assisting with a design of a province-wide placement database gave an update on the project. The Advisory Committee met on October 26 to discuss next steps. A wide range of database systems were examined and the one that is most closely aligned with the functional requirements of the project is HSPnet, a non-profit company based in British Columbia.

- The Database project supports clinical education across Ontario to plan, design and implement an improved regional and/or provincial information system. The system will facilitate system wide

data collection and coordinate placements within regions.

- HSPnet includes two levels of involvement for agencies: the receiving coordinator level (to consider organizational issues) and at the unit manager level.
- Placement requests are set at particular times in the year that everyone agrees to and this has worked very well in British Columbia. At present requests in the GTA come at varied times.
- The Advisory Committee will need to decide which regions will be pilots. Pilots are usually a subset of a region ensuring a representative sample of academic institutions, hospitals and community agencies from various sectors.
- The expectations of what is involved in being part of a pilot need to be clearly laid out. There would be a requirement by all parties to commit to the process.

It was noted that there are tremendous benefits from a consistent approach to clinical placements that will ultimately save everyone time. The consultant reported the benefits of HSPnet as a risk management tool is that it provides information on students and where they have been placed which can be retrieved very quickly. There was general support from the group for the project but also a need identified to address a number of questions, particularly around resources.

UPDATE ON PAN FLU

The representative from the MoHLTC provided an update on the pan flu planning. There was agreement from Council of Ontario Universities (COU) committees to have one person coordinate activities related to health science students. This meeting was an opportunity to identify issues from

the perspective of the GTA consortium regarding how students should be deployed during a pandemic. The decision tree developed by the Clinical Advisory Committee is a framework for deployment of students in a provincial emergency. Pan flu will be a community based outbreak and will test issues of capacity rather than containment.

Many organizations have an emergency response plan in place in the event of an outbreak. University Health Network has a default position, which means that students will be allowed to continue clinical education unless there is a specific reason why they should not. Many placement coordinators within hospitals will be deployed to other areas of the hospital to deal with the outbreak and will not be available to deal with students.

For the academic institutions, if one student needs to be pulled out due to safety concerns then all students will likely be pulled out. This decision is made at a high academic level.

Decisions need to be made regarding students who live in one area and work in another. Also students will not be able to work in more than one setting.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

- Keep databases current. The location of students in the clinical area needs to be known so they can be contacted quickly.
- Identify the skill level of the student in each year according to the skill list from the June pandemic flu plan.
- Keep an updated record of the masks students are using.
- Involve students in the discussion on pan flu.
- Secure resources e.g. masks

- Begin discussions between Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) and the CNO regarding student deployment in an emergency to address such issues as what happens to students' education if there is an interruption? Decisions should be guided by professional standards of practice.

It was decided that the discussion would continue in developing concrete plans.

AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE AT THE FALL RETREAT

Submitted by: Susan Sproul

Hello and best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy New Year!!

I had the opportunity to attend the PNEIG retreat this past October in King City. What an inspiring and motivating experience to network and participate in this activity as the PNEIG group moves forward. Tricia Hasenclever's presentation was both invigorating and enlightening. I am looking forward to the upcoming May retreat and the continued rejuvenation of the PNEIG group.

I also attended the CASN Nurse Educators' conference in Montreal in November. The conference provided an opportunity to network with nurse educators from across the province and the presentations I attended reaffirmed my commitment to nursing education.

In closing, if I can be of any help regarding any questions / concerns you have for the Eastern Region, please let me know. I can be contacted at susan.sproul@durhamc.on.ca.

RNAO NURSING EDUCATION COMMITTEE UP-DATE

Submitted by: Judy Britnell

MAL Nursing Education, on behalf of the RNAO Nursing Education Committee

Since my last report our committee has met three times via teleconference.

Primary issues discussed at these meetings include:

- The need for tuition support for undergraduate and graduate nursing students
- The development of a position statement on the pre-conditions for excellence in nursing education (a teleconference meeting took place on December 14)
- The piloting of a clinical placement coordination system for all nursing schools across Ontario
- Simulation funding for schools submitting in the second round announced November 2005
- Lack of preceptors for nursing students
- Concerns about nursing student enrolment numbers and obtaining accurate data
- Follow-up on 2 resolutions passed by the 2005 AGM i.e., support for nursing education research (referred for discussion to PNEIG), and the addition of end-of-life-care to nursing curricula (referred to RNAO for creation of a Best Practice Guideline)

We continue to identify issues critical to nursing education and to make recommendations to the RNAO Board for further action. We are also attempting to collaborate with others concerned about nursing education throughout the province and nationally.

The committee members for 2005/06 are:

Kim Jarvi, Marianne Cochrane, Heather Whittle, Liz Erwin, Sue Coffey, Michael Scarcello, James Chu, Linda Ballantine

Our committee will be pleased to receive your ideas and comments. Please email me at

britnell@ryerson.ca.

POLICY AND POLITICAL ACTION REPORT

Submitted by: Janice Elliot

As I write this article, a federal election has been called. By the time you receive this newsletter, the election will be over and we will have a new federal government. All of the campaigning will be done and the MPs will be elected and getting settled in Ottawa.

Many nurses will have been involved speaking out about nursing and health issues for Canadians.

But what happens when the campaign and election is over?

How can each of us be political?

How can PNEIG be political as a group?

What are the issues that face us as nurse educators?

What do we feel passionate about in our work?

Who needs to hear our stories?

Who do we need to collaborate with as a group or on an individual basis to move policy forward?

We have a long way to go as an interest group to be a political force but we can do it. We have approximately 700 members and think of the policy that could be developed and the political action activities organized if each one of us did a small part. For now, we have started with resolution

writing for the RNAO AGM in 2006. We are looking for issues facing nurse educators in Ontario. Issues suggested to date include the casualization of nursing faculty and the issues surrounding the preparation of nursing students to work in the community. PNEIG would like to address the issues surrounding nurse educators in the clinical setting but we need your help. If anyone is interested in writing resolutions, being involved in policy and political action, please contact PNEIG through the website at www.pneig.ca or contact me at jllelliott@fanshawec.ca. WE can make a difference!

WHY I JOINED PNEIG?

Submitted by: Kristine Newman

I am a Clinical Educator at St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital. I recently started this new role and joined PNEIG to begin networking with other educators in Ontario. Also, I feel it is my professional obligation to become involved in a RNAO Interest Group so that I may personally grow, increase my knowledge and have a voice in Nurse Educator issues. PNEIG provides us with a support system to exchange ideas and to collaborate with other members. I attended the fall retreat with the intention to become more involved as a member of PNEIG and the Executives welcomed me to volunteer. It is a very exciting time to become involved as PNEIG is in a renewal phase and I had the chance to join the Marketing and Spring Retreat committees. Contributing my time to PNEIG and giving back to the nursing community has been a great experience so far and I hope others consider becoming more involved.

EDUCATION AND SERVICES UPDATE

Submitted by: Beverley Tezak

We have had a pretty exciting year thus far in education and services. Let me highlight the newsletter, our presence at the Educator's conference, and CNA certification for nurse educators.

PNEIG CONNECTIONS

This is the second newsletter I have had the privilege of coordinating and editing. It truly is an exciting time to be able to provide you with all of the most recent updates from your executive members. There have been so many exciting things we are working on and in the future we hope to have a greater connection with our members.

We invite you to submit any exciting news from your area in addition to your comments on our newsletter. Please forward your newsletter submissions to btezak@rogers.com. This newsletter is coming to you in the bright wintry month of February. Our next newsletter is due to be distributed to you in the spring. Please submit your article by April 15, 2005 to meet our distribution deadline.

RNAO EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 2006

This exciting professional development venue offers nurse educators the opportunity to network and share experiences. PNEIG will be hosting a wine and cheese during the event and we encourage all of you to come and meet your PNEIG executive. Your executive team will begin discussion with the RNAO to determine the feasibility of hosting a conference. Stay tuned for more details as the discussions progress. I have the privilege of

working on a planning committee with the RAO on a conference initiated by Chapter 8 and hope the experience will be exceptionally beneficial in the event PNEIG also hosts a conference.

CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATION FOR NURSE EDUCATORS

I interviewed a prominent nursing leader who provided invaluable information on the process of CNA examination process and leading this type of project. This project needs to be national in focus and therefore would be an excellent priority for PNEIG to initiate with other nurse educator groups in other provinces. Further discussions and interviews need to occur prior to setting an action plan and I will keep you updated, as there is progress. If you are interested in joining a working group please forward your name to btezak@rogers.com and we can move this venue forward. This is a process that will take time and ensuring strategic planning to meet the national focus expectations will be essential.



IN YOUR NEXT NEWSLETTER:

Our next newsletter will provide you with:

- an exciting update on our website
- more information on how our strategic plans are progressing
- a special article on diversity

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Pease join us for PNEIG's
first ever spring symposium



we are the light

esprit, excellence and evolution

When: May 26 & 27, 2006

Where: the beautiful **Kingsbridge Center:**

12750 Jane Street, in King City, just north of Toronto.

Who: Everyone welcome!

We are busy finishing our planning. The two days center on the theme, Esprit, Excellence and Evolution with interactive presentations and a round table discussion time on Friday and a workshop on Saturday. The workshop is called **Restoring the Spirit of Nursing Through Healing the Learning Environment**, and is an outcome of the joint work of PNEIG and the Nursing Students of Ontario, (NSO). In 2003 our joint efforts brought a resolution to the membership asking RNAO to explore the issue of nursing student abuse.

The resolution passed unanimously and we now present this workshop for every nurse and nursing student who has ever wanted to be part of the solution and of the evolution of our profession. If you have ever, as a student or graduate, experienced or witnessed abuse, and if you have ever dreamed of a time when we are all as kind and gentle with our own, as our best selves aspire to be, then you will want to be there. After the workshop you will be ready to carry a healing caring message to other nurses/students in need of it.

Please gather with us in May to refuel and rekindle the common spirit which exists in members of our Interest Group and which inspires enthusiasm, devotion and a strong regard for the honor of the group ...**Esprit!** We shall recognize and strive for **Excellence** and make a solid commitment to the **Evolution** of our profession. **We Are the Light! Let us brighten it.** Let's GLOW!

By Patricia Patterson,
Chair of Symposium Planning Committee

