

Newsletter

March 2020

Greetings from your executive!

March already, time goes by quite fast... some are on March break and other are back to work / school ! With this Newsletter, we are planning to keep you posted of our activities... such as a webinar in the development.

You may contact us through our **website**: <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/interestgroup/58/about>
Follow us on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RainbowNursing/>
or contact the President directly: pgauthier@rnao.ca



Our Mission:

To foster and advocate for nursing practice and environments that support people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

Message from Paul-André, RNIG President

Active and Alive!

Dear colleagues,

We, Linda and Christopher joined me, are just back from a meeting with the MPPs at Queen's Park a few weeks ago. We had the opportunity to meet with politicians and share our concerns about Long Term Care and the Opioids crisis. RNAO home office had prepared the background information to help us with some specific facts. Information that can be found on RNAO's website and emails. When we are faced with over capacity hospitals across Ontario, we need more financial support to develop more beds in long term care right now... not in 5-10 years! And in regard to opioids, in Sudbury, we have 2 individuals per week who are dying. In Ontario, it is 5 per day- 5 to many ! It is unacceptable. SO, we are asking the MPPs of all political parties to move forward and faster to address these concerns.



Figure 1 Photo published on RNIG Facebook

On a different note, we are planning a webinar about the safe dating on the internet / dating APPs. Rainbow-RNIG- has a great number of nursing students who joined our association that could benefit

from such a presentation, but also, older individuals... like me (lol). We know that dating can be an important part of our lives. So, how can we be safe and safer? We are concerned that some individuals may be exposing themselves for abuse, violence, intimidation, harassment... Our physical safety and psychological safety are paramount. We hope that our webinar can be useful for all individuals, from all sexual orientations. The goal is to have it before the end of March.... Keep an eye on you email from us. The system will allow the first 100 person in... If it is quite popular, we may look at repeating it.

On a personal note, some of you want to know... a bit about me. I am a retired nursing professor. I was teaching theory and clinical every year for 31 years in Northern Ontario. I am still practicing as a clinical nurse specialist in palliative care, clients and families always need more of our care. -- I am an openly gay man, and speaking out for nursing, health and the respect of the LGBTQ community for many years. I attend and actively support the activities during the Pride week in Sudbury for years. I have been elected six times on the Board of Directors of RNAO over the past 25 years representing the 5 chapters of North Eastern Ontario.

In closing, it is our plan to continue increasing the visibility of our association and to continue to seek the respect that we deserve as individuals and as a community. We are still active on our facebook and we are looking at having our own website by the end of this summer.

Sincerely,

Paul-André Gauthier, Inf./RN, CNS; PhD (nursing)
Provincial President RNIG (RN - LGBTQ+)
Rainbow Nursing Interest Group (Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario).
Association des infirmières et infirmiers arc-en-ciel de l'Ontario.
Email contact : pgauthier@rnao.ca
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RainbowNursing/>



Ruth Trinier – Communications ENO

I have had the pleasure of being involved with the RNIG executive since 2015. I currently practice in a remote nursing station in Northern Ontario. During my previous employment in acute and critical care at SickKids in Toronto I was involved in clinical education, project development and research in addition to direct care. I previously served on the National Board of Directors with the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses and have recently completed a post masters NP program at Athabasca University. I am looking forward to another interesting year serving the membership of RNIG.

Several times throughout the year RNIG's executive meets either virtually or face to face to discuss matters of concern to our membership and to make plans for future events. During the virtual meeting on February 5th the following issues were discussed:

- Paul-André & Chris will be attending RNAO's Assembly Meeting on February 20 & 21 in Toronto; concerns to be considered include cuts to Public Health in Ontario and the implications for the LGBTQ+ community and sexual health; revisiting changes to the Sex Ed

curriculum and requiring all health care providers to have adequate preparation in providing bias free health care to the LGBTQ+ population;

- One person is no longer serving on the RNIG executive- because not renewed one's membership with RNAO;
- the call for election for executive officers will go out in the spring this year – there will be a call for nominations to fill the positions of political action, social media, student representative, workplace liaison and president elect;
- Paul-André is working with CNA on a report discussing the challenges for RNs working with MAID under the current legislation;
- Linda presented RNIGs 2019 year-end budget which included a surplus of over \$5000.00; and the financial report for 2018-2019 was submitted to RNAO home office in Toronto;
- RNIG will have a booth at the York University Fair on March 5th;
- Alex and Paul-André are working on creating an RNIG website;
- Initiatives for the year include the creation of a dating safety webinar to be broadcast in the spring.

We encourage all members to put forward information or ideas for initiatives of importance for consideration.



➤ Linda Holm – Finances;

While retired from Public Health (Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program) 6 years ago, I remain active by volunteering, mostly through determinants of health issues. I'm a member of RNAO's Oxford Chapter and their Policy and Political Network Officer, and a member of Oxford County's Rainbow Coalition.

This past year, one initiative that I became involved with through my church, was assisting in organizing a "Sex Trafficking along the 401corridor" community event. Speakers participating were from the London Abuse Centre and the Woodstock Police. Our goals are to increase awareness, to recognize warning signs and luring, and to increase knowledge of available resources and services.

I have just finished reading, "Out of the Shadows" by Timea E. Nagy and Shannon Moroney (2019), which was a gift to me from a niece. The book is about Timea's moving experience of human trafficking and survival. If you are interested in knowing more about sex trafficking and related issues, this is the book. Timea continues to assist police services and victims. As well, Timea can be booked as a speaker at www.timeanagy.com . She offers workshops and manuals to institutions/community groups to educate and create sustainable funding for several rehabilitation initiatives for victims of sex slavery across Canada. Check out www.timeascause.com - I think that her work is particularly useful for health workers in walk-in clinics, and hospital emergency rooms.

I'm enjoying my involvement with RNIG and look forward to 2020's initiatives.

