

MEMBERS' VOICES: February – October 2020
Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health

SUBMITTED BY: Paul-André Gauthier, RN, CNS; PhD (nursing)
Provincial President, Rainbow - RNIG.

END: Engage with registered nurses and nursing students to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization.

- We are representing the Rainbow Nursing Interest Group (Association in Ontario).
 - Association des infirmières et infirmiers arc-en-ciel de l'Ontario.
- To contact me: my email: pgauthier@rnao.ca or Rainbow-RNIG@hotmail.com
- Our numbers are – as an association:
 - As of Oct. 31, 2019: total # 1,070 (RNs / NPs: 92 and B.Sc.N. students 978).
 - As of October 31, 2020: total # 1,222 (RNs / NPs: 108 and B.Sc.N. students 1,114).
- Members can find information that we post regularly on our Facebook and Website to add information and encourage members to contribute. We are monitoring for fake messages and fake profiles. Our links are:
 - **Information-RNIG** : <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/interestgroup/58/about>
 - <https://rnao.ca/connect/interest-groups/rnig>
 - **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RainbowNursing/>
 - **Newsletters- RNIG**:
 - March 2020: <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2020-03/RNIG-newsletter-March-2020.pdf>
 - October 2020: <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2020-10/RNIG-newsletter-October-2020.pdf>
 - We responded to e-mails from members and non-members who are interested about association and activities.
- Eleven (11) emails were sent to members on various topics since last February. For example: informing the members of the new Executive; the latest all for election, our AGM.
- We received quite positive feedback from participants on our RNIG's AGM on Wednesday September 2nd, 2020 that we hosted on Zoom. They really enjoyed our detailed AGM report provided in PDF format to members.

END: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health.

- We are participating in social medias at information the public, registered nurses and nursing students about issues that we are confronted with. We are supporting publicly funded health care system, and accessibility to proper long-term care for our elderlies.
- We are also encouraging teaching institutions to find mean to allow nursing students to be allowed to their clinical placements where possible, in a safe context.
- Proper PPE has been a challenge that we need to address.

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

- Paul-André was involved in meeting with the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). He will be participating in the discussions of a new CNA - LGBT+ committee. They were informed that we have been in existence in Ontario for over 10 years.

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 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.
 - Paul-André met a few times with the MPP for Nickel Belt, France Gélinas, and for Sudbury, Jamie West. He has regular communication with them on Social Media since last February. His last intervention was to remind the 2 MPPs - Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College. "This latest move hasn't escaped the opposition at Queen's Park, with the NDP's anti-racism critic, Laura Mae Lindo, stating this week that the college has a "longstanding and ongoing record of Islamophobic, transphobic and homophobic bigotry." Which raises the question of why the government would have done all this in the first place." *Reference* <https://ipolitics.ca/2020/10/21/the-real-reason-the-ford-government-wants-to-let-canada-christian-college-grant-degrees/> & <https://ipolitics.ca/2018/12/04/fords-closeness-with-controversial-evangelical-pastor-is-problematic/>



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- Christopher Draenos, our ENO Political action, was also involved in regular meetings with RNAO staff over political action and reporting to our executive meeting and contributing to the exchanges. He was involved in the discussions about Toronto Pride and challenges of a virtual parade.
 - Also, we support RNAO's Action Alerts.
 - Covid – we have been supporting nurses and other health care professionals who are caring for patients, clients, and residents during these difficult times. We are contributing to the social medias to inform members and the public of our position.
 - We feel that RNAO's decision to call for resignation of Dr. David Williams, chief medical officer of health of Ontario - is not acceptable. We are hearing many nurses feeling quite uncomfortable about this decision.
 - During these challenging times, we should work together at improving care provided and health of the population of Ontario by making suggestions.
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OTHER:

- We have a new executive since September 2020. The list was circulated to our membership and also forwarded to the RNAO membership Department to ensure that the proper individuals can be connected and contacted by RNAO home office when needed.
- Paul-André (President) and one of our ENO will attend the RNAO Assembly meeting & Interest Groups meeting in November (on Zoom).
- Paul-André (President) and Christopher (Political action ENO) attended the Day at Queen's Park on Feb. 19-20-21, 2020. Linda Holmes joined us in Toronto representing her chapter.
- Paul-André continues as Chair of the Sudbury-Manitoulin Ethics Network (**SMEN**) – clinical ethics.
- We had 5 executive meetings and we are using various platforms to meet (e.g. Zoom).

