



**CNS-ON - Annual General Meeting
AGM – Executive’s Report
Saturday, June 12th, 2021**

Zoom meeting

President	Elsabeth Jensen
President-Elect Assembly Representative – RNAO (2020-2021)	Rashmy Lobo
Director of Finance	Paul-André Gauthier
Director of Policy & Practice, and Political Action	Jennifer Anderson
Director of Communications/ Secretary	Kadeen Briscoe
Director of Membership & Education	Gina Dolezel
Director of Research	Vacant
ENO Workplace Liaison	Vacant
ENO Social Media	Vacant
Student Representative	Cécile Lormeus

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<http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada/113210988761198?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, June 12, 2021

President's Report

One year ago, I reported that I was working remotely due to the pandemic and expressed uncertainty as to how long that would last. It has lasted this year and will continue until January 2021. As we emerge from the third wave, vaccination rates are climbing. Hopefully, we will not see a fourth wave.

Your executive has been busy again this year, in spite of conditions imposed by Covid. We continue to represent CNS concerns at the Assembly of President meetings and a Queens Park Day. Our executive meetings continue to be held via Zoom which has been a great support.

We continue to collaborate with the CNS Association of Canada to host Colleague to Colleague meetings via Zoom. We are aware of the challenges that members have faced with redeployments at their places of work. Many are tiring of the demands placed on them by the pandemic, some have fallen ill. All are persevering and concerned about the long-term consequences for the many who have been ill. Unknowns face the profession in terms of how to care for those who suffer long term after effects from Covid. These unknowns require the CNS community to engage in research and problem solving. This is an area where specialty knowledge and skills will be essential. These sessions will continue to be offered as long as the pandemic is present.

We are participating in the lobby to improve long term care. Covid has highlighted the need for urgent reforms. The LTC reports in Ontario from the military are damning. We have heard from colleagues redeployed from hospitals to long term care settings as well and their experiences confirm what the military staff reported. As Canada's richest province, we can do better, much better.

In addition to this, I have also contributed to the Facebook page that we maintain. Our page is gaining new 'friends'. It has promoted excellent links for Covid-19 and other topics of interest to the CNS Community.

This year, Canada is hosting the **11th ICN NP/APN Network Conference 2021** conference (virtually) at the end of August. Your executive has made funds available to support members

to be able to attend. Hopefully, many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to see what CNSs are doing around the world.

I want to congratulate Jennifer Anderson on the arrival of her daughter this year, and to congratulate Cécile Lormeus on completing her MScN. Needless to say, she will no longer be on executive as a `student`. I also want to acknowledge the work of Rashmy Lobo in taking on the work of representing our association at RNAO events. She will be an amazing President. Paul-André Gauthier has worked hard behind the scenes helping us to stay on track. He also came out of retirement to administer vaccines for Covid in his community of Sudbury.

This is my last report to you as President. It has been a privilege to serve the CNS community in Ontario. My energies will now be directed to the CNS Association of Canada as I will be the next President of that organization. I encourage all of you to join that group as well. My work to promote the CNS is moving at the national level.

Respectfully submitted.

Elsabeth Jensen, RN, BA, PhD
President-Elect Report

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### **President-Elect's Report**

Like some many others, I look back this past year and think on how we, as Nurses, have evolved. The Clinical Nurse Specialist role has met with challenges. This pandemic year has proved that we are adept and adapt to changes rapidly. At the clinical front, I have been challenged with new clinical settings, adapting and using my clinical expertise to facilitate care transitions for the Pre-Acute Covid and Post Covid at home monitoring program. Increasing wait times due to closure of services for life saving procedures and tests have asked for sharpened critical thinking and decision-making skills.

As President Elect during this past year, I have continued to attend and represent our Association at the Assembly meetings which were held virtually in November 2020 as well as the Queens Part Days Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. I represented our collective voices in support of resolutions this year. Addressing PPE shortages and care team redeployments have been consistent this year. We supported the call to end vaccine hesitancy, protect LTC residents and we continue to lobby to ensure global access to vaccines for all. I continue to support our President with activities of CNS-ON and have collaborated with our executive team in planning and implementing activities. The Colleague-to-Colleague meetings this past year has enabled

us to connect and share practices as well as support each other. I continue to report and submit for our newsletters. Action alerts such as Exempt Health Care workers from Bill 124 and extend assistive device programs to include mental health are a few that we lobby for.

I attended the NACNS conference in February 2021 and found the collaboration of the CNS-C with our American partners to be refreshing. Within my collaborative role, I continue to build networks which will help us to forge forward and promote the Clinical Nurse Specialist role. I remain the Ontario representative for this term at the CNS-C BOD. We continue to advocate to our long-standing resolution at RNAO related to Role Promotion and identification of the Clinical Nurse Specialist.

As my term as President Elect comes to an end and I transition into the new role as President, I know we are resilient. I know the Clinical Nurse Specialists within our Association are committed. We will Rise and **We will survive.**

Respectfully submitted:

Rashmy Caroline Lobo  
President-Elect, CNS-ON;  
Assembly Representative -RNAO  
Ontario Representative, BOD, CNS-C;

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Director of Policy and Political Action's Report

In March of 2021, I began my career as a Forensic Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) amidst a global pandemic. Forensic CNSs have been critical in supporting front-line Mental Health Nurses in planning and implementing best practice interventions for preventing the spread and managing the care of patients diagnosed with COVID-19. Over the course of the last year, I have been involved in several practice initiatives at work including; providing education on physical head-to-toe assessments of patients and developing and implementing care plans specific to COVID-19 patients. Furthermore, I have supported nurses with COVID-19 testing procedures, facilitation and maintenance of an admission isolation unit and the education and support of routine infection control practices and enhanced precautions for those under surveillance or with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. The last year has reinforced the critical role that CNSs play in every day clinical practice and how valuable they are in supporting nurses to provide high-quality care in all settings during a pandemic. One of my nursing colleagues and I have submitted

an abstract for conference for the fall of 2021 surrounding the Clinical Nurse Specialist's response to COVID-19. Our hopes are to highlight the effectiveness of the CNS' role in responding to health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

To maintain my commitment as the Director of Policy and Political Action, over the past year I have attended CNS Executive meetings and engaged in report writing for the newsletter. I have also been present at the RNAO's PPAAN meetings. The Queen's-Park-on-the-Road highlighted the need for action from government officials surrounding two very important issues: Long-term Care and Opioid Overdoses. I will be present at the upcoming RNAO Annual General Meeting June 24 – 26, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Anderson, RN, MScN, CPMHN(C)
Director of Policy and Political Action

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**Director of Finance's Report.**

My involvement on the Executive encompasses many functions such as doing administrative work (preparing agendas, reviewing minutes for the accuracy, setting up the doodle and the zoom meetings, etc.) and keeping the CNS-ON Facebook and website up-dated, sending notices to members via RNAO's system email among many other functions. The website has not been upgraded yet because the changes during covid pandemic.

I continue my duties as the Finance Director of CNS-ON and I submitted to RNAO home office an annual financial report in January 2021 as required. We completed the 2019-2020 year with a surplus of \$2,300. All bills have been paid and money received deposited and documentation to be verified by our internal auditor. CNS-ON website, which will be "up-graded" in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paul-André Gauthier.*  
Provincial Past-President - CNS-ON.  
Director of Finance.  
Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario.

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Director of Communication/Secretary's Report

The past 15 months has presented unparalleled opportunities for CNSs to engage in reflection, personal growth and deepening commitment as well as building confidence in our mission to give back to our communities. I continue to be humbled and inspired by your continuing efforts to help solve and endure the challenges encountered by our profession. Your resilience and perseverance in the face of persistent and shifting demands when considering the impact of the pandemic and the shortage of nurses on the state of our profession, as reframed my perspective on the meaning of service to the profession on account of your bravery and power. To you, I extend my utmost respect.

In terms of my role, I continue to work with Executive members to maintain in good order and address CSN-ON business, correspondence and the recording of decisions. I have participated in meeting at the local and national level to remain informed about the affecting demands, interests and obligations of our profession.

In this context, I strive to understand the factors and scope of the issues and activities which are in-place or being considered to improve the function of CNSs.

In the upcoming year, I'll focus on reaching out to you by presenting topics and stories that matters to you and reflects your values. To scale the CNS-ON, continuing acknowledgement of our presence across healthcare settings is essential. To that end, I am seeking your help in growing and presenting knowledge about the CNS's role in your practice setting. Send us stories about you and your role as a CNS within your organization. Your stories will be shared with current and prospective members to build a sense of shared experiences, inspiration and community. We know that CNSs are invested in supporting the health and safety of our communities, please join us in expanding this knowledge, together we can make it possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Kadeen Briscoe
Director of Communication and Secretary.

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## **Student's Report**

I was fortunate to win the student membership award in the Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario (CNS-ON) last year. I subsequently joined the Clinical Nurse Specialist

Executive committee as a graduate nursing student representative. I am thrilled to be part of this extraordinary team that goes beyond and above to keep the CNS members up to date with nursing practice issues.

When reflecting over the last year, joining the CNS executive team as a graduate nursing was a great learning opportunity. It helps me to have a deeper understanding of the CNS's role among other healthcare professionals. I attended the CNS executive meetings and the colleague-to-colleague meetings throughout the year to demonstrate my responsibility and accountability to the CNS executive. In addition, I worked collaboratively with the CNS executive team to promote awareness of the CNS roles by contributing to the CNS newsletters. Given the current COVID -19 pandemic challenges that we face, I thought it was appropriate to write about nurses' student journey and work experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, I spoke to classmates, colleagues, and friends and shared the CNS-ON website, when possible, for more information about the benefits of joining the CNS-ON to help recruit more CNS members. As the annual general meeting (AGM) this year is around the corner, I am looking forward to attending and meeting other CNS colleagues.

I completed the Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) program this year. With the new era of virtual learning, last year was challenging for students to find practicum placement due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. I was very fortunate to complete my practicum placement online with a fantastic preceptor who is a faculty member in the School of Nursing at York University. However, students with disabilities continue to face barriers to meeting their educational institution's clinical requirements (CNSA, 2020). In 2016, the Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA) passed the position statement "Accommodation within Clinical Placements for Students with Temporary, Transient, or Sporadic Disability or Injury" (CNSA, 2020, p. 2).

In fall 2020, I presented a project to my classmates on enhancing nursing curricula for inclusive education, covering inclusivity, diversity, and equality in teaching-learning, focusing on students with disabilities. In addition, I was interested in finding pedagogical approaches to support students' learning and explored the theory of anti-oppressive education. Also, I led a synchronized nursing research and ethics session for undergraduate nursing students at York University.

As my graduate nursing student representative role is getting closer to an end with the MScN program completion, I plan to continue serving in the CNS executive committee should a suitable position be available.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cecile Lormeus*  
Graduate Student Representative

Canadian Nursing Students' Association. (2020). Position statement # 6: Incorporating education surrounding populations with diverse abilities into nursing curriculum. <http://cnsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Position-Statement-6-Incorporating-Education-Surrounding-Populations-with-Diversabilities-into-Nursing-Curriculum.pdf>

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Membership and Education's Report

Over the last few years, we have seen a drop in membership. We are presenting you some data.

CNS-ON	October 31, 2020	April 19, 2021
RNs & CNSs	245	242
B.Sc.N. students	10	0
Total:	255	242

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Dolezel.

Director of Membership and Education.

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