

MEMBERS' VOICES: February – November 2021
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 Oct. 31, 2020: total # 1,222 (RNs / NPs: 108 and B.Sc.N. students 1,114).

--> As of Oct. 31, 2021: total # 1,595 (RNs / NPs: 117 and B.Sc.N. students 1,319), (Non-paying New Grad 159).

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 2021: <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2021-03/RNIG-Rainbow-Newsletter-March-2021-.pdf>

== > Sept. 2021 <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2021-09/Rainbow-RNIG-Annual-Report-AGM-Sept-2021-ok-.pdf>

We responded to e-mails from members and non-members who are interested about association and 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Thirteen (13) emails were sent to members on various topics since last February. For example: informing the members of the new Executive; the latest election results, our AGM.

We received great feedback from participants on our RNIG's AGM on Thursday September 23rd, 2021 that we hosted on Zoom. They really enjoyed our detailed AGM report, circulated to all our members afterward.

Our Executive and members have been working and contributing to the development of the BPG- **Promoting 2SLGBTQI+ Health Equity**; participated in reviewing a new Position statement (December-February) and the BPG launch in June 2021. Furthermore, I have prepared a resolution that was supported by our Executive and presented at RNAO's AGM on June 25, 2021 and past with great support of RNAO's voting delegates!

I am pleased of all the work and milestones that we were able to achieve despite our own workload during Covid time. I was involved in the presentation / launch of the 2SLGBTQI+ BGP in June, you can view this on the YouTube link. See the links for more information, and they are posted on our website.

- **RNAO - RNIG-Rainbow Position Statement**
-June 2021 [link-here](#)
- **2SLGBTQI + Best Practice Guideline. BPG.** June 26, 2021. [Info-here](#)
- **BPG – Promoting 2SLGBTQI+ Health Equity.** June 2021 - Available here. [Free PDF version.](#)
- **RNAO & RNIG-Rainbow nursing.** Launching the 2SLGBTQI+ Saturday, June 26, 2021. Best Practice Guideline - BPG —> [YouTube link](#)

I would like to extend my gratitude to our Rainbow Executive members for their support and encouragement during this past year. Speaking out for our 2SLGBTQI+ community is only possible if we are working together for the betterment of our society. Also, I extend my thanks also to our ENO colleagues who had to step down during this past year.

Paul-André has shared the 2SLGBTQ+ BPG with the CNS American association (NACNS) during his meetings with them every two months. He is one of the two Canadian representatives on the committee of six.

Linda Holm, Finance ENO, shared, with Oxfords County's Rainbow Coalition on October, the availability of the BPG Promoting 2SLGBTQI+Health Equity via Zoom (10-12 in attendance). She also did an overview/screen share regarding the Safer Spaces recommendations 2.0 and promoted 2.1 to those involved with schools (approx. 15 minutes) on October 13th. On Oct. 20th, she did a video clip - a recorded Zoom presentation of same (briefer overview, approx. 8 minutes) for those not in attendance or others to be referred to. She shared with them our RNIG's Facebook site.

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 also encouraging teaching institutions to find means allowing nursing students in clinical placements where possible, in a safe environment.

Sharing the new BPG and also the new Position statement help to inform health care professionals and the public regarding the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

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). Our executive members are involved in providing information about “equality and equity” regarding our 2SLGBTQ+ community, not the same. Not only we should have a BPG and a Position statement, but they need to be used in health care and by our professional nursing associations.

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:

- > Paul-André met a few times with the MPPs for Nickel Belt, France Gélinas, and for Sudbury, Jamie West. For example, discussions regarding opioid crisis, vaccination against covid, elderlies’ issues in long term care in our region.
- > The President shared the political action which he undertook in representing and speaking on behalf of our association in his meetings and media interviews.
- > 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.

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.



OTHER:

- > At the June’s RNAO AGM, students’ placement was discussed. The President raised the concern about the process used to reverse a vote on the resolution that was defeated; - process unacceptable-. Some resolutions need to be better formulated or “improved” before voting representatives voted on them at the annual meeting.

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- > We have a new executive since September 2021. 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) and he represented RNIG at the RNAO's AGM in June.
 - > Paul-André (President) and Christopher (Political action ENO) attended the Day at Queen's Park on Feb. and March 2021. Other members of our Executive were able to attend also.
 - > Paul-André continues as Chair of the Sudbury-Manitoulin Ethics Network (**SMEN**) – clinical ethics.
 - > Since February 2021, we hosted 4 executive meetings and we are using various platforms to meet (e.g. Zoom) and our AGM Sept. 2021.

