



**Paul-André Gauthier**

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 President CNS-ON  
 Clinical Nurse Specialist in Palliative  
 Care

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## Message from the President

### More Innovation: Advancing the Role of Clinical Nurse Specialists !

Hello CNS colleagues!

In January, I have submitted our association for a provincial award and provided details regarding the work that our association has done over the past few years. In the Fall, we are going to receive an award... Keep an eye on your emails and CNS-ON social media.

Our organization has demonstrated unwavering dedication to advancing nursing excellence, advocating for equitable healthcare, and supporting our members and the communities we serve. Through strategic initiatives, collaborative efforts, and steadfast advocacy, we have proven our commitment to making a meaningful impact on healthcare delivery and the nursing profession.

We have actively participated in RNAO assembly meetings and AGMs, ensuring that our voices are heard at provincial and national levels. Our advocacy has included direct engagement with policymakers to address critical issues, such as preserving and expanding supervised consumption services, which are vital for vulnerable populations. Media outreach and public campaigns have amplified our message, underscoring the importance of publicly funded healthcare services for all Ontarians.

Within our membership, we foster connection, support, and professional development through initiatives such as scholarships, virtual meetings, and

partnerships with national organizations. Our efforts to combat professional isolation, particularly in rural and northern regions, highlight our dedication to empowering all nurses. Furthermore, we have championed policies on equity, diversity, and inclusion, actively promoting a more inclusive healthcare system.

Our work also includes addressing systemic challenges, such as opposing funding cuts to Public Health Units and advocating for sustainable investments in primary care and treatment programs. These actions reflect our commitment to protecting and enhancing access to quality care for all.

In everything we do, we embody the values of leadership, advocacy, and collaboration. We speak out for nursing and health, consistently exemplifying our mission to uphold the principles of publicly funded, equitable, and compassionate healthcare. Our efforts have not only strengthened the nursing profession but also positively impacted the broader healthcare system, making us highly deserving of this award.

In the past 20 years, we have submitted various resolutions:

(login to [www.myrnao.ca](http://www.myrnao.ca) then click:

<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/node/4628> )

- In 2005: Title protection
- In 2010: CNS and Complex Care.
- In 2018: CNS and Staff Mix.
- In 2025: CNS Prescribing Authority

This year, we are submitting a new resolution that will be presented at the provincial RNAO AGM on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

- “Clinical Nurse Specialists expanded formulary prescribing authority.” (see below)

Sincerely,

Paul-André Gauthier, CNS, PhD (nursing)

### ***Did you know ?***

CNSs have provided specialized care and expertise in Ontario and Canada for **over 60 years**, significantly contributing to improved patient outcomes and timely access to specialized care.

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## **Clinical Nurse Specialists expanded formulary prescribing authority** RNAO AGM May-2025 -

**Whereas** Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) have provided specialized care and expertise in Ontario and Canada for over 60 years, significantly contributing to improved patient outcomes and timely access to specialized care;

**Whereas** The current lack of sufficient support for specialized nursing care in Ontario hospitals, long term care facilities, chronic diseases programs, community,

independent practice, and hospice care organizations negatively impacts patient outcomes and nurses; and patients and clients have a right to access necessary care in a timely fashion and CNSs have the capacity to provide a wide range of specialty services;

**Whereas** Nurse Practitioners in Ontario have successfully held prescribing authority in primary care for over 25 years, and CNSs in over 40 states in the U.S. have prescribing authority and title protection, demonstrating improved care delivery in hospital and community settings; and Registered Nurses in Ontario have recently been authorized to prescribe certain medications;

**Be it resolved that:**

RNAO, in collaboration with CNS-ON, develop and present a detailed proposal outlining the benefits and framework for CNS prescribing authority in Ontario, including an **expanded formulary** (to prescribe) appropriate to the area of specialization.

RNAO and CNS-ON jointly lobby policymakers, healthcare leaders, and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of prescribing authority as core skills for CNSs, emphasizing its potential to enhance patient care and system efficiency.

**Paul-André Gauthier**  
President CNS-ON

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<p><b>Webinar:</b></p> <p><b>“ Colleague to Colleague ”</b></p> <p><i>Mark your calendar (see your email)</i></p> <p><b><i>Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025</i></b></p> <p><b><i>at 20:00</i></b></p>	<p><b>KEEP AN <span style="color: blue;">EYE</span> ON</b></p> <p><b>YOU EMAIL</b></p>
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**Registration** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8zvz47jSjZxIyZ72lBJ0k-dVb-kBUaAkJ92EwIJ0LLleKhv/viewform>

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# Who I am as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)

## Background to APN

An advanced practice nurse (APN) encompasses registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) who combine their graduate nursing education with substantial specialized clinical expertise and advanced decision-making skills to meet the health needs of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations (Canadian Nurses Association (CNA, 2019). APNs critically analyze, synthesize, and apply clinical, theoretical, and research knowledge to guide their practice. They also play a key role in advancing the nursing profession through research, leadership, and knowledge development (CNA, 2019).

The key characteristics of APNs include their advanced clinical expertise in a specialty area, as well as the integration of research, education, leadership, consultation, and collaboration within a systems-level approach to healthcare (CNA, 2019).

## Applying APN Characteristics to Me

As a PhD candidate in Nursing focusing on maternal-child health, I embody many core characteristics of an APN. My clinical background as an RN in labour and delivery, along with my roles as a prenatal instructor and nurse educator, and my advanced nursing education to bring substantial expertise to the field of maternal-child health.

Specifically, the core characteristics I embody include:

- 1. Advanced Clinical Expertise:** My clinical background as an RN in labour and delivery has provided me with specialized expertise in maternal-child health. This experience, together with my roles as a prenatal instructor and nurse educator, has reinforced my understanding of the complex decisions women face when choosing their mode of delivery after a previous caesarean section (CS). These roles have strengthened my ability to support women through informed decision-making and provide evidence-based care.
- 2. Integration of Research:** My doctoral research focuses on developing and testing an innovative digital tool to support informed decision-making following a previous CS. I have also led and contributed to two scoping reviews: one examining the use of virtual games for women's health education and another exploring culturally inclusive simulation in nursing education. These projects demonstrate my ability to critically appraise, generate, and apply research to enhance nursing practice and patient education.
- 3. Education and Knowledge Mobilization:** I have provided education in both clinical and academic environments, including prenatal education and interdisciplinary staff development programs. I have co-led the *Neonatal Resuscitation Program* at a local hospital, delivering simulation-based learning and certification for interdisciplinary teams. My interest in innovative educational methods has driven my use of digital tools and simulation to enhance learning outcomes and knowledge transfer across healthcare and academic settings.

4. **Leadership and Collaboration:** I have held leadership roles in several interdisciplinary initiatives. As Co-Chair of the *MoreOB Program* at a local hospital, I led efforts in risk management and patient safety. I also chaired a policy and procedure committee, overseeing the review and updates of clinical policies and standards. I have demonstrated effective leadership, strategic planning, and system-level thinking through these roles.
5. **Health Systems and Policy Influence:** I have contributed to quality improvement initiatives, policy development, and staff education, leading to improvements in care delivery and patient outcomes at the organizational level. Building on this foundation, my doctoral work aims to inform clinical practice and health policy pertaining to birth options following CS, with the broader goal of advancing system-level improvements in maternal-child patient education.

### Influencing Practice as an APN

In summary, the core characteristics of an APN, including advanced clinical expertise, integration of research, education and mobilization, leadership and collaboration, and influence on health systems and policy, are central to my current practice and future goals. My commitment to maternal-child health and my leadership in education and research positions me to contribute meaningfully to nursing knowledge and practice. As an APN, I aim to lead in ways that improve patient outcomes, strengthen healthcare systems, and advance the nursing profession.

### Reference

Canadian Nurses Association. (2019). *Advanced practice nursing: A pan-Canadian framework*. Canadian Nurses Association. [https://hl-prod-ca-oc-download.s3-ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/CNA/2f975e7e-4a40-45ca-863c-5ebf0a138d5e/UploadedImages/documents/nursing/Advanced\\_Practice\\_Nursing\\_framework\\_e.pdf](https://hl-prod-ca-oc-download.s3-ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/CNA/2f975e7e-4a40-45ca-863c-5ebf0a138d5e/UploadedImages/documents/nursing/Advanced_Practice_Nursing_framework_e.pdf)

**Krissy Jordan**, RN, PhD Candidate in Nursing

**Krissy Jordan**  
Graduate Nursing Student  
Representative

You can find more information about the  
biography of Executive members  
on our website:

Login to [www.MyRNAO.ca](http://www.MyRNAO.ca) first, then

<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/node/2661>

## CNS-Ontario

Annual General Meeting  
(AGM)

Saturday,

June 7, 2025

10:00 AM on zoom.

Registration: <https://forms.gle/KYUTW4fmUiq2rE358>

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**Website information:** (Login first to [www.MyRNAO.ca](http://www.MyRNAO.ca) )

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

If you have suggestions: send us an **email**:

[cnsontario1@gmail.com](mailto:cnsontario1@gmail.com)

Follow us on our **Facebook**:

[https://www.facebook.com/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada-113210988761198/?ref=py\\_c](https://www.facebook.com/Clinical-Nurse-Specialists-Association-of-Ontario-Canada-113210988761198/?ref=py_c)

## CNS Association of Canada

Website : <http://cns-c-canada.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnscanada/>

Email: [cnscanada1@gmail.com](mailto:cnscanada1@gmail.com)

Karelo link to become a member in 2025:

[https://www.karelo.com/enter\\_res.php?&BID=650&Ev=22249](https://www.karelo.com/enter_res.php?&BID=650&Ev=22249)

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## CNS Association of Ontario 2024-2025 Executive members

<b>President (ENO) (2023-2025)</b>	Paul-André Gauthier
<b>Past President &amp; Director of Finance (ENO) (2023-2025)</b>	Rashmy Lobo
<b>Director of Policy, Practice, and Political Action (ENO) (2024-2026)</b>	Stacey Roles
<b>Director of Communications (ENO) / Secretary (2024-2026)</b>	Kadeen Briscoe
<b>Director of Membership &amp; Services (ENO) (2022-2026)</b>	Emily Fung
<b>Director of Research &amp; Education (ENO) (2023-2025)</b>	Elsabeth Jensen
<b>Social media (ENO) (2023-2025)</b>	Paul-André Gauthier
<b>Workplace Liaison (ENO) (2023-2025)</b>	Robin Coatsworth Puspoky
<b>Graduate Nursing Student Representative (ENO) (2025-2027)</b>	Krissy Jordan





## CNS Association of Ontario Education Award 2025

Three (3) bursaries in the amount of **\$ 2,000 each** will be awarded to members of the CNS Association of Ontario:

Awarded to a member of CNS-ON who:

- Who will be attending in person the **ICN Congress 2025 Helsinki – June 9-13**
  - <https://www.icn.ch/events/icn-congress-2025-helsinki>
  - **or** attend a CNS conference before October 2025.
- Who is a current member of the CNS Association of Ontario (**minimum** last 2 membership year);
- Who currently resides in Ontario;
- Who has not received this type of CNS-ON award the previous year;
- “*First come, first awarded*” if you meet the criteria.
- **The recipients are expected to write an article about their conference for our next Newsletter.**

### Application Requirements:

- Who is a current member of the CNS Association of Ontario:
  - ✓ Please send your 2 membership RNAO / CNS-ON **receipts** ( 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 ).
  - ✓ You can go to [www.myrnao.ca](http://www.myrnao.ca) – login and go to “**My receipts**” to download them.
  - ✓ Submit some details of the reasons why we should give you this educational award.

**For MN or PhD students / candidates:**

- Who has completed a short essay (not to exceed 500 words) on:
  - ✓ your professional objectives / career goals (purpose for undertaking the program of study), and your potential contribution to advanced practice nursing as a CNS.
- ✓ [ mandatory for student] Who has enclosed one academic reference from a professor.
- ✓ The bursary will be **awarded** by the CNS Association of Ontario’s Executive — **before the end June 2025**. An **email will indicate** if you were accepted **or** not; with more details for the refund.

**Deadline: Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 before 1500 hours (3:00pm)**

Submit to:

**Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Association of Ontario**

**Subject:** CNS-ON educational award.

**CNSOntario1@gmail.com**

### Refund Process:

- ❖ Only for members that the registration was approved by us / CNS-ON – with an email confirming it by Paul-André Gauthier.
- ❖ Proof of payment - the CNS conference’s registration, plane ticket/ travel fees, hotel fees food (not included in the event), **and** a copy of your credit card statement – showing that the payments were done.
- ❖ The person will receive a refund when the Director of Finance of the CNS Association of Ontario has received **these official documents prior** to September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ( preferably **before** that date ).
- ❖ Please note, that **no refund** will be issued **after** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.





## CNS Association of Ontario CNS Student Award 2025

### \* An opportunity for Graduate Nursing Students \*

The CNS Association of Ontario is recognizing a **graduate nursing student** for each School or Faculty of Nursing who is currently pursuing studies in the **CNS stream** at the Master of Nursing or PhD level.

#### To the Director/ Dean of School of Nursing:

- Please inform the professors in charge of the CNS stream program about this award.

**\* New  
deadline \***

#### Criteria for the award:

Only nursing professors and / or CNS will be eligible to submit nominations.

**Letter of reference** demonstrating excellence in theory & in a clinical nursing specialty.

- The letter should also include the following information: name, title, address, e-mail and telephone number of the faculty member nominating the student candidate, as well as the candidate's information. The student needs to be currently residing in Ontario.
- The letter should be supported and signed by 1 professor or a CNS who knows the CNS student well.

#### Student Award:

A certificate recognizing the student achievement, a free membership with the CNS Association of Ontario for one year and a key chain-CNS.

**Deadline** for submission:

Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)

Submit to:

**Clinical Nurse Specialist  
Association of Ontario**

**Subject:** CNS-ON CNS Student Award.

**CNSOntario1@gmail.com**