



**CNS-ON - Annual General Meeting**  
**AGM – Executive’s Report**  
**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
 Zoom meeting

**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)</b>	2023-2025 Laura Freeman 2025-2027 Krissy Jordan

# Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

### Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### Land Acknowledgement

*We acknowledge that the work that we do is on aboriginal land which has been inhabited since time immemorial by Indigenous peoples. As settlers, we are grateful for the opportunity to use the land and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land in the past, present and future. What is now commonly referred to as Ontario, covers 46 treaties and includes unceded land.*

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#### President's Report

Over the past year, the Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario has continued its dedicated work, strongly representing the interests of CNSs across the province. Our Colleague-to-Colleague meetings have continued to foster dialogue and connection among CNSs in Ontario and across Canada. Our Executive team has also remained deeply engaged in regular meetings and discussions on key issues affecting our profession. Just last week, I had the great honour of attending the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.

What sparked the journey toward our provincial CNS resolution? In December 2023, Dr. Karima Velji—Chief Nursing Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister of Health for Ontario—extended an invitation following a presentation to our members. She encouraged us to submit a proposal on CNS prescribing. Over the past year and a half, Stacey Roles and I collaborated to prepare a draft proposal, which we submitted to Dr. Velji. This initiative led to several meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Health and ultimately resulted in a recommendation to engage with both the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) and the RNAO. These efforts culminated in the development of a formal resolution on CNS prescribing (see the full details of our resolution at the end of this report ).

#### **Clinical Nurse Specialists expanded formulary prescribing authority**

##### **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.

In January 2025, I drafted the resolution and, in collaboration with our Executive, finalized it for submission. As President of CNS-ON, I proudly submitted the CNS Prescribing Resolution for consideration at the RNAO Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, May 30. Prior to the AGM, we participated in two preparatory meetings with RNAO representative members on May 20–21 to review all 12 submitted resolutions. At the AGM, we were thrilled to receive unanimous support for our resolution from all voting delegates in attendance. We look forward to sharing further updates and progress on this important initiative during our CNS-ON AGM this Saturday.

**Great News !!!**

**# 1**

As President of CNS-ON, I continue to chair executive meetings and represented our association at both provincial and national forums. This role has afforded me the opportunity to attend various meetings across Ontario, Canada, and internationally with our counterpart, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) in the USA. As an **Executive Board Representative** of the CNS Association of Canada (CNS-C), I actively participate in international collaborations and discussions. I continue to coordinate CNS-C meetings with the new President and fulfill my responsibilities as the national treasurer and membership coordinator. Additionally, I attend the Canadian Nurses' Association (CNA) **Network meetings** alongside representatives from other national nursing associations. In addition to these engagements, I continue to **meet** with our two regional **MPPs** at breakfast meetings, including Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, and France G  linas, MPP for Nickel Belt, and she is also the Ontario NDP Health Critic at Queen's Park and shared our concerns regarding healthcare and the need for improvements.

Our association is currently in the midst of a second call for nominations to join our executive team. Following the initial call, the positions of President, Director of Finance, and ENO Workplace Liaison were acclaimed. The second call remains open for two key roles: Director of Research and Education, and Social Media ENO. We encourage members to consider stepping forward to contribute to our growing leadership team.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of attending the RNAO Queen's Park Day in Toronto from February 26 to 28, 2025. Despite the event coinciding with election day on Thursday, February 27, it proved to be an enriching opportunity. RNAO members engaged in meaningful dialogue on pressing healthcare issues and strategies for political advocacy, further strengthening our collective voice in Ontario's healthcare landscape.

As President, I chair the CNS-ON Awards Committee and am proud that our association sponsors and finances educational awards. We continue to offer members **five \$2,000 awards** for 2024-2025, totaling up to \$10,000. As this time two awards have been granted, and we invite more members to apply in the coming year. We have not received nominations for the CNS of the Year Award. We have

received two nominations for the CNS Graduate Student Award and are extending the nomination period to allow Ontario's universities to submit candidates for the until the end of June 2025.

This Spring, I was privileged to be appointed to the provincial RNAO Awards Committee, where I participated in the selection process for award recipients from across Ontario. The committee reviewed over 40 impressive submissions. In keeping with ethical standards, I recused myself from discussions related to the RNAO Interest Group/Association of the Year category, as I had submitted the Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario for consideration earlier in January. We are delighted to share that CNS-ON has been selected as the recipient of this prestigious award. The official presentation will take place at the November 2025 Assembly of Presidents, where all RNAO chapters and Interest Group / associations will be represented.

**Great News !!!**

**# 2**

To keep our members informed, we have prepared detailed **newsletters** and posted numerous updates on our **Facebook** page and **website**. Special thanks to all the executive members for their insightful articles. Additionally, we have sent multiple **emails** to keep you up to date and have responded to correspondences as necessary. I have submitted activity and **Members' Voice reports** to the RNAO home office as required. All these documents are available on our website, if you haven't visited it recently, I encourage you to do so. CNS Week is coming up soon, in early September, and we encourage CNSs to celebrate.

As President, I had the distinct honour of being invited to present at the *CNS Group meeting at Unity Health Toronto*. During this session, I delivered a 30-minute presentation highlighting the mission of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario and the meaningful work our association is already undertaking to support CNS practice across the province. The presentation was followed by an engaging Q & A session with 21 Clinical Nurse Specialists who attended via Zoom on May 27, 2025. Several important topics were brought forward, including the critical need for political advocacy and enhanced efforts in knowledge translation.

In 2024, we conducted two member surveys that provided valuable insights into the priorities and needs of our community. We are actively implementing the recommendations that emerged from these surveys. We are pleased to announce our upcoming webinar on Qualitative and Quantitative Research, scheduled for June 12, followed by our Colleague-to-Colleague meeting on June 25. We look forward to your participation in both of these enriching sessions.

In summary, as a member for over 25 years of CNS-ON and during my tenure as President, I have witnessed our association achieve significant milestones while navigating ongoing challenges. Since CNS-ON began in 1977 and it has exemplified over the years outstanding leadership, advocacy, and commitment to nursing excellence. Despite workforce transitions, this association has maintained strong

membership by fostering engagement through strategic surveys, free educational sessions, and active communication channels, including newsletters, a dynamic website, and social media. It promoted professional development via scholarships and support for graduate nursing education. The association actively addressed professional isolation through virtual meetings and strengthened national collaborations. Its strong advocacy efforts include presenting resolutions at RNAO AGMs, meeting with policymakers, and gaining media attention to defend supervised consumption services and oppose cuts in healthcare. A new Position Statement reinforced their leadership in nursing and healthcare reform. Their unwavering support for equity, diversity, and inclusion in healthcare. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, this association continues to elevate the nursing profession and advance publicly funded healthcare, making them a deserving award recipient. As we look to the future, the **collective efforts** of our association will remain focused on **fostering resilience**, promoting professional growth, and celebrating the invaluable contributions of Clinical Nurse Specialists.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated executive members for their unwavering support of the CNS cause in Ontario and Stacey Roles in the preparation of the proposal of the CNS prescribing document. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Laura Freeman for her valuable contributions—her work with us, which concluded earlier this year.

Respectfully submitted.

*Paul-André Gauthier*, Ph.D. (nursing), M.Sc.N., M.D.D., T.C.C., B.Sc.N.; RN, CNS;  
President CNS-ON  
Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario.  
Executive Board Member of CNS Association of Canada.  
Member of the international CNS collaboration CNS-C & NACNS.

## **Director of Policy, Practice, and Political Action (ENO)’s Report**

### **Expanding CNS Prescribing Authority: An Initiative Rooted in Advocacy and Evidence**

CNS-ON brought forward a Resolution at the RNAO Annual General Meeting in May 2025, to expand the RN prescribing formulary in Ontario, targeted to a CNS expanded formulary to prescribe appropriate to the area of specialization.

CNSs who, despite their advanced expertise, continue to face limits in delivering timely care due to prescribing restrictions. CNSs are already doing the complex clinical work — it's time the system caught up. Stacey Roles RN PhD Psychotherapist, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Paul-Andre RN PhD Clinical Nurse Specialist met with the Ministry of Health who are in support of this initiative but require that appropriate steps be taken in relation to government support and approval. To retain appropriate resources

to move these steps forward, they developed a resolution and brought to CNS executive for feedback and review.

**The final resolution which was approved:**

- calls for a strategic collaboration between CNS-ON and the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) and the Ministry of Health to advance regulatory changes that support and strengthen Clinical Nurse Specialist practice;
- calls for the development of a framework and proposal for CNS prescribing authority;
- proposes collaborative lobbying efforts with policymakers and health leaders.

More than a policy proposal this is about enabling CNSs to practice to their full scope, address gaps in care, and deliver timely, expert interventions where and when patients need them most.

Prescriptive authority with expanded formulary for Clinical Nurse Specialists enhances patient care, optimizes healthcare delivery, and supports CNSs in maximizing their impact. With their advanced education and training and focus on evidence-based practice, CNSs are well-positioned to make informed and effective decisions about medication and treatment interventions.

CNSs are clinical leaders, educators, and advocates for evidence-based practice. Their expertise drives better patient outcomes, enhances staff efficiency, and reduces costs. Systems that effectively utilize CNSs not only improve care quality but also achieve significant financial benefits, making CNSs invaluable assets in today's healthcare landscape.

Respectfully submitted:

Stacey Roles, RN, MScN, PhD  
Director of Policy, Practice, and Political Action (ENO)

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## **Past-President & Director of Finance's Report**

### **Past President Report ( June 2025)**

As the Past President, this past year, I continue to support the President and the Executive team with continuity of activities planned. I continue to attend scheduled meetings and submit articles for newsletter publications when available. I have advocated to have the CNS profile raised at various venues at local chapter forums.

### **Director of Finance Report (June 2025)**

As the Director of CNS-ON, for this fiscal year, I have maintained records of bookkeeping and provided updates to the Executive team at Executive team meetings. The annual budget for 2024 was developed in consultation with the President and approved at the Executive meeting. As of October 31,

2024, we completed the year 2023-2024 with a deficit of \$1,014.51.

All bills have been paid as presented and Membership dues for 2025 have been credited to our account. We have provided one educational award to date this term and have received all supporting documentation. There are additional educational bursary awards planned within the year's budget and funds will be awarded. Bank statements have been submitted to the RNAO home office as requested along with Member voice submissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rashmy Caroline Lobo, RN, BScN, MScN  
Past-President and Director of Finances - CNS-ON;

## **Director of Research & Education' s Report**

During the past year, I have attended and participated in all executive meetings. I also contributed to all newsletters.

As Chair of the National Network of Nursing Specialties, I have led in work to move to development of a process for CNS Certification under the Canadian Nurses Association. Rather than an exam process, this will likely be developed as a portfolio process. The Pan-Canadian Core Competencies for the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNA, 2014) will provide the framework for a CNS to demonstrate that they have the education and training to fulfill the functions of a CNS in a specialty area. I wrote an article in our recent newsletter about the education and training needed to meet those competencies. This can serve as a guide to anyone looking for an appropriate graduate program to meet their goal of becoming a CNS.

A member identified CNS prescribing as an issue for CNS-ON to work on. I participated in meetings to draft a resolution for the RNAO AGM earlier this year. This resolution has now been passed. The next steps will involve strategies to lobby the College of Nurses and the Ministry of Health, as well as other stakeholders and shareholders.

The member survey identified a need for more information about doing research. The need for sessions on research was feedback from the survey. I will be presenting a session in June and attend also the Colleague to Colleague ZOOM session.

Respectfully submitted:

Elsabeth Jensen, RN, BA, PhD  
Director of Research & Education.

Canadian Nurses Association, (2014). Pan-Canadian Core Competencies for the Clinical Nurse Specialist. Ottawa: Canadian Nurses Association. [Clinical\\_Nurse\\_Specialists\\_Convention\\_Handout\\_e.pdf](#)  
/ [Clinical Nurse Specialist Resources - Canadian Nurses Association](#)



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## **Director of Communication/ Secretary's Report**

In 2024-2025, the Board of Directors (BOD) continued to raise awareness about the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role and continues to serve the members. The BOD meets approximately every three months to discuss CNS issues, plan and review overall strategies for managing projects, and discuss ongoing developments.

Over the past year, the BOD members have published several newsletters discussing their work as CNSs, vision and areas for ongoing development in nursing. They have presented papers at local and international conferences. CNS-ON continues to maintain an online presence, including on Facebook and [www.RNAO.ca](http://www.RNAO.ca), to keep members updated on their work and maintain archival records for future access. The BOD updated the CNS-ON position statement in the Fall of 2024, and it is available on the association's website. Representatives of our BOD have attended the RNAO Provincial and Queens Park Assembly meetings.

The BOD continues to anticipate the needs of CNS-ON members. It offers membership benefits by providing educational awards and conference sponsorships, hosting an annual general meeting and delivering educational sessions. There is ongoing participation in the Colleague-to-Colleague meeting to support and learn from CNSs across Canada.

Thank you to the BOD members for their support in managing my responsibilities during my absences.

Respectfully submitted,

Kadeen Briscoe, RN, BScN, MScN.  
Director of Communication and Secretary.

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## **ENO Workplace Liaison's Report**

I am completing my second year in the position of Workplace Liaison ENO. Over the past two years, it has been a great privilege to serve as the ENO Workplace Liaison position for CNS-ON.

My role as Workplace Liaison involved raising awareness about CNSs by participating in activities that increase the visibility of CNSs and CNS-ON. I have attended our CNS-ON executive meetings by zoom, Colleague-to-Colleague meetings by Zoom, and other activities arranged by the CNS-ON executive. I contributed the CNS-ON newsletters and shared my experiences of being mentored into a CNS, promoted the need for CNS title protection, and raised questions about educational requirements for the CNSs.

In addition, I volunteered to be the CNS Ontario representative for the CNS Association of Canada Board of Directors. In these meetings, I share the progress and challenges of CNSs in Ontario with our



colleagues from other provinces.

I look forward to continuing in my role as ENO Workplace Liaison in the upcoming 2025-2027 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Coatsworth-Puspoky, RN, PhD  
ENO Workplace Liaison

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## **Director of Membership and Services' Report**

I have proudly served as the acclaimed Director of Membership and Services since September 2022. Over the 2024–2025 term, my focus has been on advocacy efforts aimed at promoting and safeguarding the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) title and role.

Throughout my term, I have remained dedicated to the Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario (CNS-ON), actively supporting member engagement through initiatives such as recruitment efforts and the creation of strategies to enhance membership retention.

Engagement actions include networking at various RNAO and CNS-ON events including the Annual General Meeting, General Assembly, Interest Group Chair meetings, Colleague to Colleague Zoom meetings, and our CNS-ON social wine & cheese event. I have also participated in the finalization of the CNS Position Statement which aims to promote title protection and regulation of the CNS role through the RNAO.

For nursing week this year, I was awarded by my primary work organization the Nurse Champion of Compassionate Care Award as a CNS, which I was nominated by a past patient who praised my role as a Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist. I also was invited to present a poster at the NSWOCC National Conference in May 2025 which was focused on how the CNS can support virtual wound follow-up for patients after having a cesarean section. These are two examples of how I have been able to represent the CNS profession while raising awareness about the CNS role.

I continue to lead recruitment efforts by reaching out to CNSs across various healthcare organizations and graduate nursing programs throughout Ontario, encouraging both current practitioners and new graduates to join CNS-ON. I also led the development of the CNS-ON membership survey as a tool to better understand how our executive team can support members' interests and encourage greater engagement in our interest group, which we hope to share annually.

In the coming year, I will continue to support the planning and development of educational and professional events aimed at strengthening member retention. To all CNS-ON members, I hope you find value in the resources and opportunities our interest group provides. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support in helping to grow and strengthen our extensive network of Clinical Nurse Specialists across Ontario.

We are presenting you some data (see the table).

Respectfully submitted,

*Emily Fung*, RN, MN, PNC(C)  
Director of Membership and Services ENO

| CNS-ON         | October 2024 | April 2025 |
|----------------|--------------|------------|
| RNs & CNSs     | 232          | 222        |
| B.Sc. students | 13           | 10         |
| Total:         | 245          | 232        |

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### Graduate Student’s Report

During my second year as the CNS-ON Graduate Student Representative, which is also the final year of my Master of Nursing program, I was provided several opportunities to promote the CNS-ON association and the Clinical Nurse Specialist profession. My work within the interest group has been enhanced by coordinating social media accounts with Paul-André. As more Graduate Nursing Student Associations are being formed at universities across the province, I have been able to follow and connect with them to promote CNS-ON through sharing stories and posters. I have also reached out to faculties of nursing to provide reminders and advocate for the CNS role to also be included in advance practice nursing career fairs and panels. The interest group’s Instagram following has grown by a bit each month.

I would like to end with a special thank you to the CNS-ON executive for supporting my education by awarding me with one of the graduate nursing scholarships offered last year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura Freeman*, RN, BScN, MN.  
Outgoing - Graduate Student Representative

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### Incoming Graduate Student

Excerpt from the May-June’s Newsletter:

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.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

*Krissy Jordan*, RN, PhD Candidate in Nursing, Graduate Nursing Student Representative.

## CNS Association of Ontario 2025-2026 Executive members

|                                                                             |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President (ENO) (2023-2027)</b>                                          | Paul-André Gauthier      |
| <b>Past President &amp; Director of Finance (ENO) (2023-2027)</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>               | <b>Vacant</b>            |
| <b>Social media (ENO) (2025-2027)</b>                                       | <b>Vacant</b>            |
| <b>Workplace Liaison (ENO) (2023-2027)</b>                                  | Robin Coatsworth Puspoky |
| <b>Graduate Nursing Student Representative (ENO) (2025-2027)</b>            | Krissy Jordan            |

Email: [cnsOntario1@gmail.com](mailto:cnsOntario1@gmail.com)

<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/interestgroup/6/about>

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

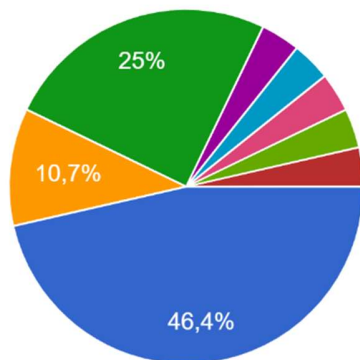
[https://instagram.com/cns\\_ontario?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=](https://instagram.com/cns_ontario?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)

[https://twitter.com/cns\\_ontario/status/1519437359045124096?s=21&t=oWhFFkS0NkwwYp4zlgvh2g](https://twitter.com/cns_ontario/status/1519437359045124096?s=21&t=oWhFFkS0NkwwYp4zlgvh2g)

# CNS-ON ~ Survey results. Survey # 1

Would you be interested in attending workshops on how to read / interpret research articles? Seriez-vous intéressée à participer à des ...açon de lire/ interpréter des articles de recherche?

28 réponses

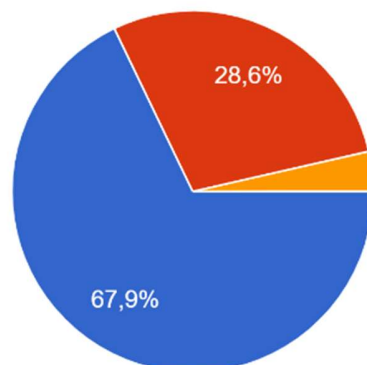


# 2

- Yes. Quantitative and Qualitative Research. // Oui. Recherches quantita...
- Yes. Quantitative Research. // Oui. Re...
- Yes. Qualitative Research. // Oui. Rec...
- No. // Non.
- I could lead those as well as meta ana...
- maybe
- I'd love something on mixed methods...
- I feel comfortable with this post masters.
- I learned this in my MScN but I would...

Would you be interested in attending a series of CNS career panels featuring CNS-ON members? Seriez-vous intéressée à assist... mettant en vedette des membres de la CNS-ON ?

28 réponses

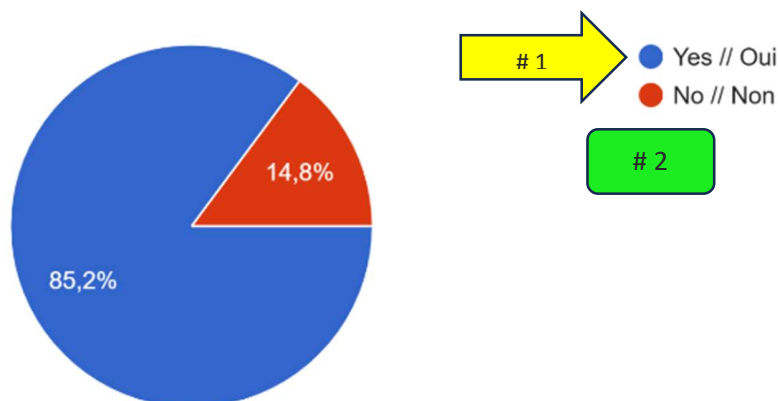


# 2

- Yes, I would be interested in attending. // Oui, je serais intéressé à participer.
- Yes, I would be interested in attending and sharing my CNS experience. // Oui, je serais intéressée à participer et à partager mon expérience ICS/CNS.
- No. // Non.

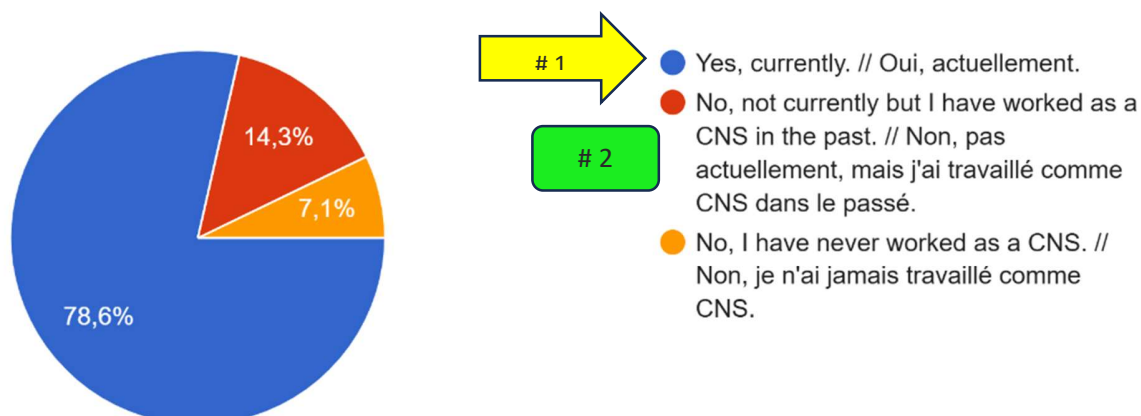
Would you be interested in attending workshops for publications and implementing research in clinical practice? Seriez-vous intéressée à assis...à mettre en œuvre la recherche en pratique clinique?

27 réponses



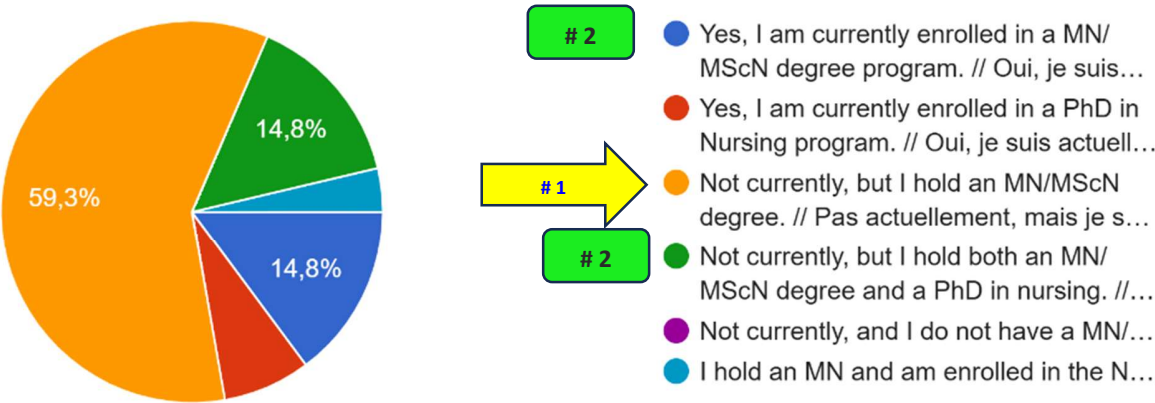
Are you currently working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist or as an APN-CNS ? Travaillez-vous actuellement en tant qu'infirmière clinicienne spécialisée ou en tant qu'APN-CNS ?

28 réponses



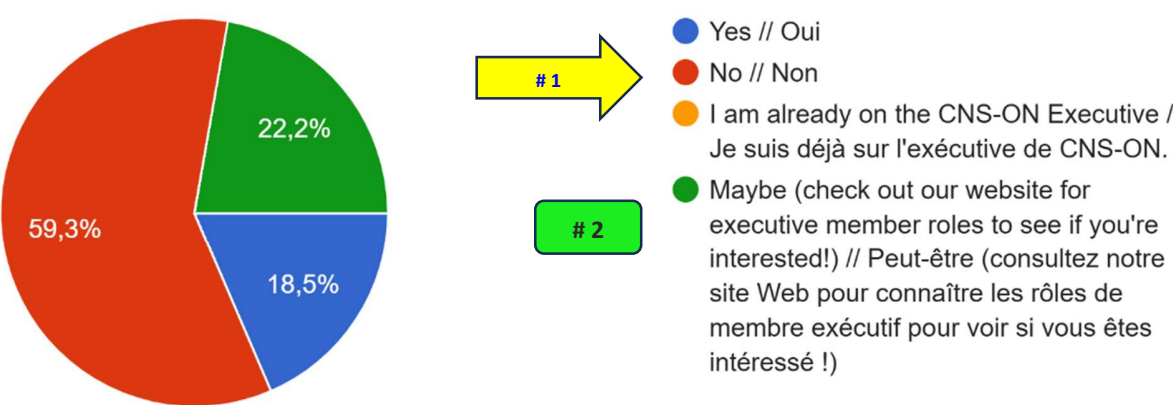
Are you currently enrolled as a student in a Master's of Nursing or PhD in nursing Program in a CNS stream? Êtes-vous actuellement inscrite comme ...Programme dans un orientation comme ICS/ CNS ?

27 réponses



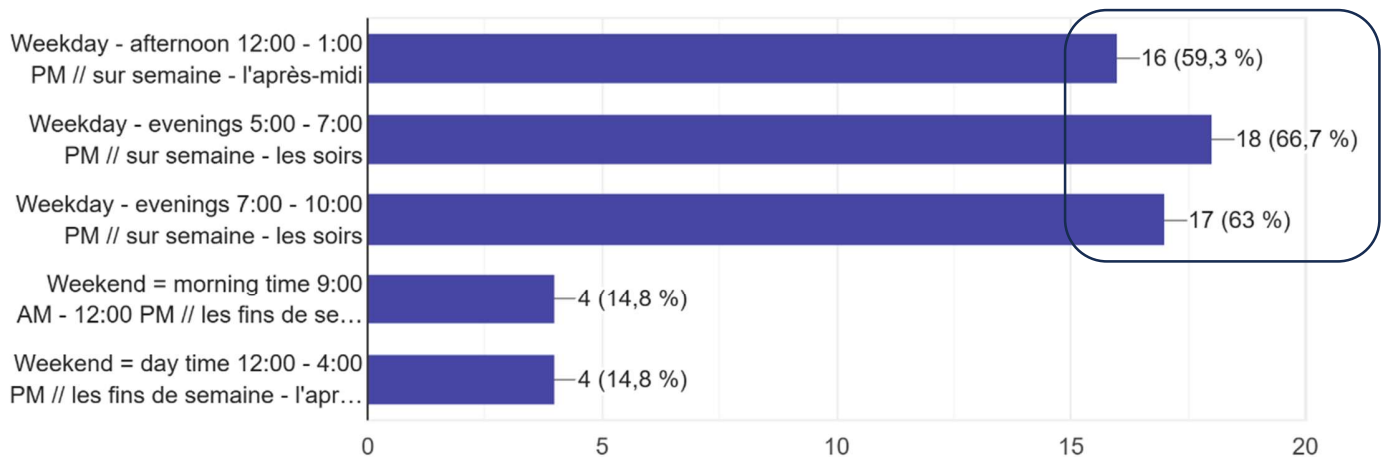
Would you be interested in joining the CNS-ON executive committee beginning this Summer 2024? Seriez-vous intéressée à vous joindre au comité exécutif de CNS-ON dès cet été 2024 ?

27 réponses



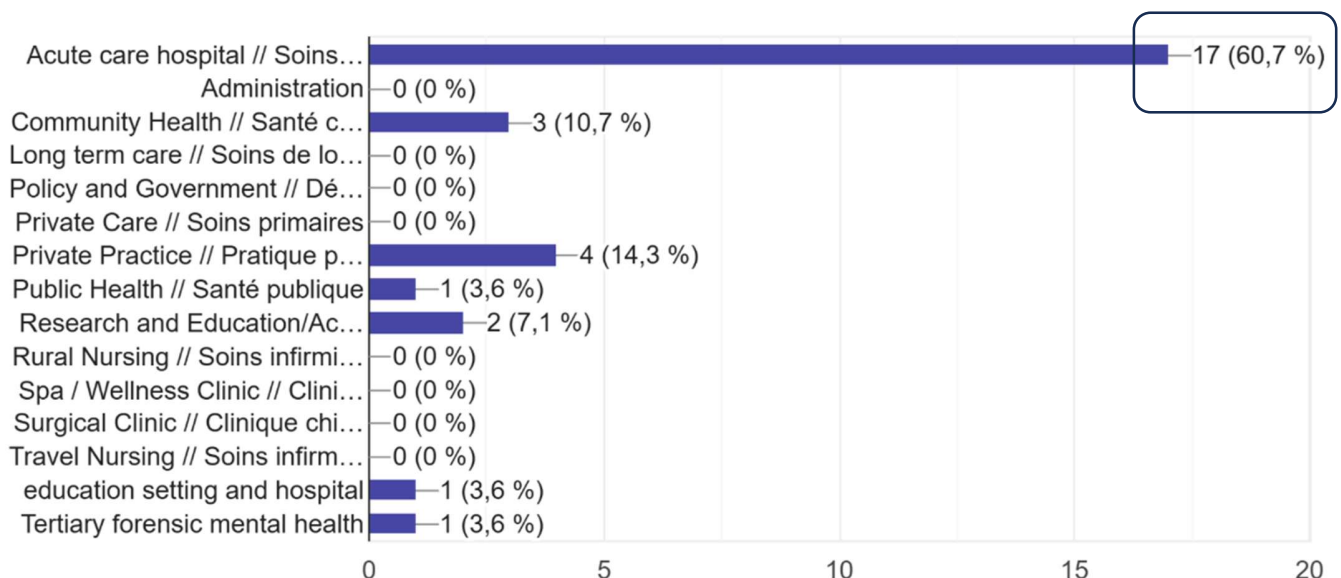
## What day and time is better for you to attend education sessions ? Quels jours et à quels temps vous préférez assister à des sessions de formation ?

27 réponses



## What is your current work setting? Quel est votre lieu de travail actuel ?

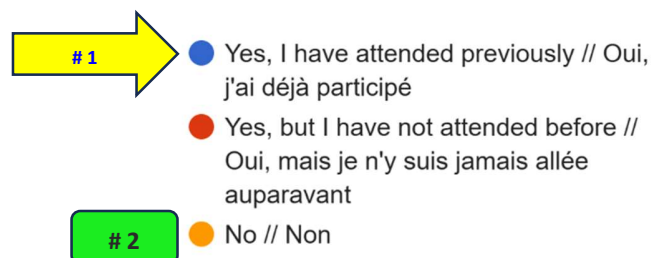
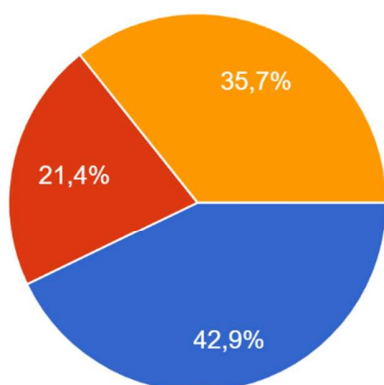
28 réponses





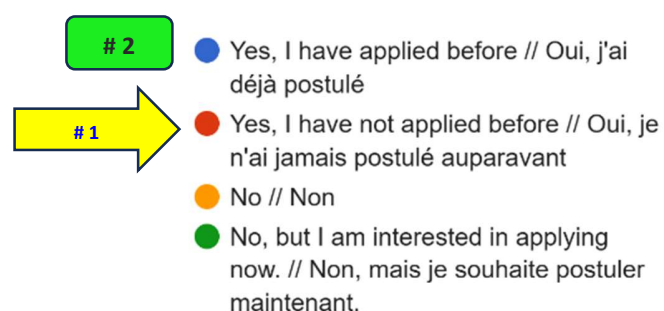
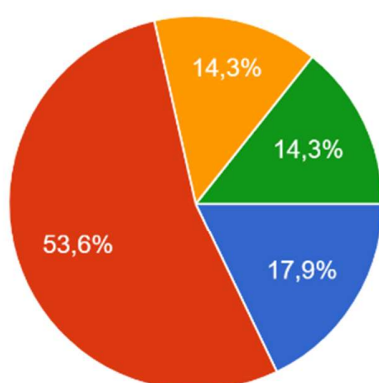
Do you know about our current "Colleague to Colleague" sharing meetings? Connaissez-vous nos sessions de rencontres entre collègues ?

28 réponses



Do you know that we have 3 Annual CNS Awards: Grad student award, Education /conference (bursary) awards, and the CNS of the Year award -...ouvez postuler en tant que membre de la CNS-ON ?

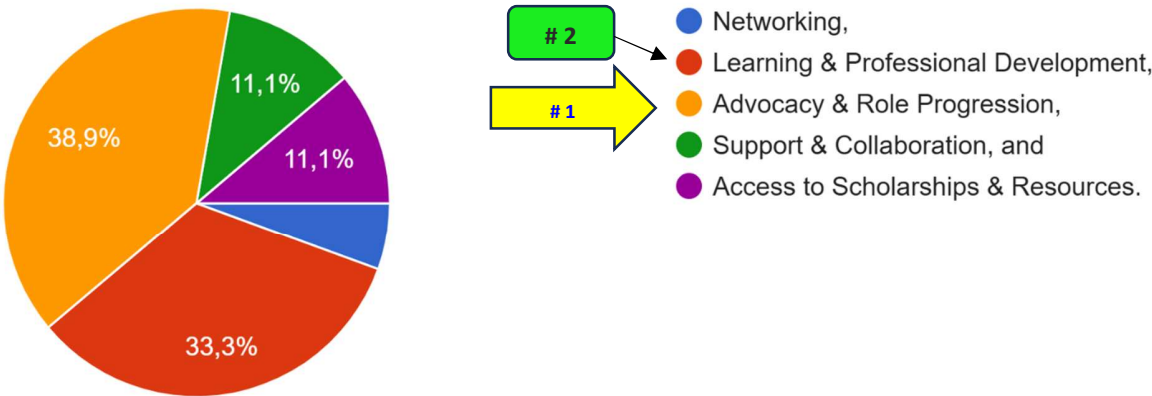
28 réponses



# Survey # 2

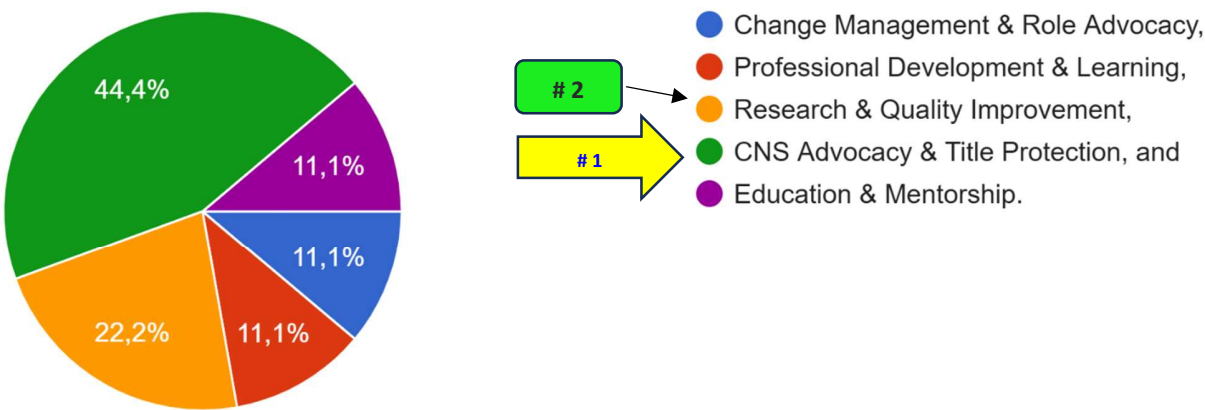
What are your primary reason for joining the CNS-ON? from the summary received: Quelle est votre principale raison de rejoindre le CNS-ON ?

18 réponses



What main topic are you most interested in exploring further (Format would be virtual webinars by Zoom) from the summary received: Quel est le suje...format serait des webinaires virtuels par Zoom) :

18 réponses



# **Clinical Nurse Specialists expanded formulary prescribing authority –**

**Approved - RNAO AGM May 31, 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.

## **Background:**

Allowing Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) to prescribe medications and treatments provides several advantages and benefits to patients, and healthcare organizations. Here are some key points:

## **FOR PATIENTS**

### **Improved Access to Care**

- CNSs can address patient needs more promptly by prescribing necessary medications or treatments within their specialties without delays caused by waiting for physician approval.
- In under serviced or rural areas, CNS prescribing can significantly improve access to essential healthcare services and specialized care.

### **Continuity of Care**

- CNSs have a deep understanding of their patients' health conditions, enabling them to provide seamless and personalized care.
- CNSs are specialists and skilled in identifying early warning signs of complications in their area of expertise (e.g., infection prevention, diabetes, mental health, cardiac care, wound management). Timely interventions minimize the need for expensive emergency care or extended hospital stays.
- CNSs can quickly adjust treatment plans based on their direct interaction with patients.

### **Comprehensive Care**

- CNSs are skilled in advanced assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, ensuring that patients receive holistic and evidence-based care.
- CNSs specializing in chronic disease management (e.g., diabetes, depression, anxiety, COPD, heart failure) provide tailored care plans that reduce hospital admissions and emergency visits. They educate patients on self-management techniques, preventing costly disease exacerbations.
- CNSs excel in educating patients about their conditions, medications, and treatments, leading to better adherence and improved outcomes.

## **FOR HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness**

- CNSs excel in managing complex cases and ensuring patients receive appropriate care before discharge and reducing hospital readmissions, or avoiding hospitalization completely. CNSs use interventions, such as detailed discharge planning, patient education, and follow-up coordination, to significantly lower the risk of preventable readmissions. This not only improves patient outcomes but also reduces the hospitals visits and costs.
- CNS prescribing with an expanded formulary within their specialty reduces the need for multiple healthcare appointments, cutting costs and improving resource allocation.
- CNSs can streamline care processes by implementing evidence-based practices and clinical guidelines, and optimizing care delivery. For example, they can lead quality

improvement projects that eliminate inefficiencies, reduce unnecessary tests or procedures, and enhance patient flow, directly saving time and resources.

### **Enhanced Team Collaboration**

- CNSs can effectively collaborate with other healthcare providers by taking on prescribing responsibilities, reducing the workload on physicians and allowing for better division of labor, as CNSs are instrumental in delivering timely and effective care to patients.
- CNSs play a crucial role in staff training, mentoring, and professional development. By enhancing the competency of nursing staff and reducing burnout, CNSs contribute to higher job satisfaction and lower turnover rates. This helps hospitals avoid high costs associated with recruiting and training new personnel.

### **Filling Gaps in Care**

- In areas with a shortage of physicians, CNSs with expanded formulary prescriptive authority can bridge gaps, ensuring patients receive timely and necessary interventions.

### **Conclusion**

Prescriptive authority with expanded formulary for Clinical Nurse Specialists enhances patient care, optimizes healthcare delivery, and supports CNSs in maximizing their impact. With their advanced education and training and focus on evidence-based practice, CNSs are well-positioned to make informed and effective decisions about medication and treatment interventions.

CNSs are clinical leaders, educators, and advocates for evidence-based practice. Their expertise drives better patient outcomes, enhances staff efficiency, and reduces costs. Systems that effectively utilize CNSs not only improve care quality but also achieve significant financial benefits, making CNSs invaluable assets in today's healthcare landscape.

### **Some references:**

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