

April 25, 2017

National Forum: Occupational Health Nursing in Canada

A Partnership between COHNA-ACIIST and AOHNA

Dear Colleagues,

You are respectfully invited to participate in a **National Forum on Occupational Health Nursing in Canada** on September 22-23, 2017 in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The Forum will be coordinated in partnership between Canadian Occupational Health Nurses Association – Association Canadienne Des Infirmieres et Infirmiers d'en Sante du Travail (COHNA-ACIIST) and Alberta Occupational Health Nurses' Association (AOHNA).

In 2015, AOHNA administered the **Canadian Occupational Health Nursing Salary Survey** which revealed significant challenges for occupational health nursing in Canada. 54% of occupational health nurses in Canada plan to retire in the next 9 years. Declining national and provincial OHN membership, decreased revenues, loss of knowledge, and decreasing continuity of OHN's employed in the workplace is challenging our practice stability and sustainability.

The objective of the Forum is to address these challenges and unite the Occupational Health Nursing bodies across Canada by:

- *Examining the current structure of the national and provincial associations and interest groups to establish a more resilient linkage and national voice for all OHN's in Canada.*
- *Leveraging the resources of each OHN association or interest group in Canada.*
- *Establishing a shared provincial/territorial strategic plan that is linked to a unified national body.*
- *Exerting the political and business acumen to establish the title of occupational health nursing as a protected title in all provinces and territories.*

All Canadian Occupational Health Nurses associations and special interest groups are invited to have two representatives participate. Each province or territory without associations or special interest groups are also invited and can have two representatives. In addition, one representative from the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and one representative from Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) will be invited to participate.

An external facilitator will moderate the Forum and will be responsible to document a proposed strategic plan based on the information discussed and presented at the forum. Participants will be required to share the proposed strategic plan with their perspective group. Following the Forum all provinces and territories will then be asked to participate in a survey on the proposed strategic plan to provide feedback, recommendations, and shape the future of Occupational Health Nursing in Canada.

In order to make this Forum as cost effective as possible, the Forum will take place immediately prior to the 2017 COHNA-ACIIST **National Conference** in Moncton, New Brunswick. COHNA-ACIIST and AOHNA will sponsor the cost of the facilitator, venue and include breakfast and lunch. Costs for travel and accommodations will be the responsibility of the association, special interest group or individual participant with consideration given to financial means. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel with a special rate of \$129/night. Please see the following links to the National Conference and for available accommodations:

- <http://cohna-aciist.ca/cohna-aciist-annual-conference-2017>
- <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1703107117&key=30F24B82>

Confirmation of your participation is required by **June 1, 2017**. Please complete the information card and return to Carmen Skelton, COHNA-ACIIST Director, Alberta, at jcskelton29@gmail.com.

We sincerely hope you will join us for this extraordinary opportunity! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Carmen Skelton RN, BScN, BPE, OHN, COHNC
National Forum Committee Chair // COHNA-ACIIST Director, Alberta

National Forum Information Card

Name:	Contact No: ()
Address:	
I am a member of COHNA-ACIIST: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
I am a member of an Occupational Health Nursing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Association, (<i>Name</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Interest Group, (<i>Name</i>)	
I am not a member on an Occupational Health Nursing Association or Special Interest Group and currently I practice Occupational Health Nursing in:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Province: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Territory: _____
Request for Funding Support: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If yes, explain:</i>	
<p>Agreement: I, _____, do hereby agree to participate in the National Forum, on September 22-23, 2017, representing, _____.</p> <p>Should my circumstances change and I am unable to attend, I will notify Carmen Skelton and advise if an alternate representative is available.</p>	
Signature:	Date:

Please complete and return to Carmen Skelton, COHNA-ACIIST Director, Alberta, at jcskelton29@gmail.com, by June 1, 2017.