

**OHNIG MEMBERS' VOICES: April 2016 to August 2016**  
**Speaking out for Nursing: Speaking out for Health**

***Occupational Health Nurse Interest Group (OHNIG)***

Submitted by:  
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**RNAO END Goal 1: Engage with registered nurses and nursing students to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization. \***

Our OHNIG Newsletter was sent to over 700 RN students. The most important message delivered "Could this happen to you?"

- Unsafe Acts - Unsafe Conditions!
- Injury on the Job!
- Workplace Stress!

OHNIG prepared "What do I do if I am injured in the workplace?" for student nurses to protect themselves. This information can be shared with others in the classroom, group sessions or reviewed independently.

One resource we found and shared with our members and students is the newly formed national Canadian Association Self Employed Registered Nurses CASE-RNs [June 2, 2016]. This new nursing association offers benefits to self employed nurses, business savvy education, professional liability protection options, professional nursing profile directory and advocacy opportunity with other nurses to unite together for a stronger national voice for primary health care for all people.

Announcement of this year's project for National Nursing Week May 9-15, i.e., all self employed nurses working in the private sector or in their own business are asked to write their professional practice nursing profile [250 words] to publish in a professional practice nurses practice guideline manual.

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**RNAO END Goal 2: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health. \***

In discussion with the Canadian Occupational Health Nurse Association COHNA it was identified the need to systematically describe the cost effective, value added services of occupational health nurses. Occupational health nurses are specialist in delivering workplace health and environmental safety services. These nurses are overlooked since they work in the private sector, are self-employed contractors or operate own business in Occupational Health & Environmental Safety,

On April 17, 2016 OHNIG during the annual National Nursing week celebrations, announced a rally call to all occupational health nurses. OHNIG asked members to identify their nursing work by writing their *professional practice nursing work profile* of the services delivered to people "where they live work and play." The profile details will be recorded and archived systematically in an on-line directory available to all public viewers. [www.ohnig.ca](http://www.ohnig.ca)

**RNAO END Goal 3: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.**

One of the most important aspects of OHNIG research effort was to explore Canadian Nurses "What do they do?". To do this, OHNIG attended the Canadian Nurses Association CNA Convention (June 18 to 23, 2016) in St. John, New Brunswick.

The five days provided amazing insight to the work performed by registered nurses in Canada. Networking with registered nurses, new graduated nurses, nurse specialists and with nearly retired registered nurses was very insightful. CNA inspired the attendees with the strength of their leadership. It was exhilarating to witness the expertise of the younger generation of registered nurses. OHNIG discovered an astounding number of innovative ways registered nurses deliver nursing care to their clients in a huge diversity of nursing care services in remote communities.

Poster presentations demonstrated the expanded scope of nursing practice, i.e., innovative registered nurses operating their own business advocating for patients care and helping by navigating day-to-day health care needs in our complex health care system.

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**RNAO END Goal 4: 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.**

OHNIG is in a research mode studying future potential "new" health care legislation involving registered nurses services. Specifically "new" legalization for medical and/or non-medical Marijuana and new regulation for physician assisted death.

**Question:** Would any of this legislation directly or indirectly affect their clients, i.e., workers in the workplace? It is determined that occupational health nurses should be well versed in these future legislation changes as they may see workers affected or need to counsel or help clients navigate health care changes.

**Question:** How can you get the policy makers to ask for input on effects and outcome from the registered nurses who are directly involved in the daily day to day health needs of their clients?

OHNIG encourages all nursing interest groups to join with other Registered Nurse members, who are speaking out for,

- Primary Health Care PHC Model of Delivery for Health Care for all people
- Delivery for all health care i.e. chronic care as well as immediate medical care
- Utilization Full Nursing Capabilities of Registered Nurses
- Public Education Campaign on Registered Nurses expanded scope of practice

Registered Nurses need to speak out for recognition of delivering consistent and continuous wellness care in a new modernized technology driven health care society. This is not the same as immediate medical sickness care.

Occupational Health Nurses are recognized since Florence Nightingale [1854] as Workplace Change Agents navigating for workers the right health care, working with management and employees to keep workers healthy using specialized nursing skills for Health Promotion, Prevention and Protection.

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**Other**

**OHNIG Summer Newsletter 2016**

"Research on Impact Health Care System Changes Indicates Opportunities for Self-Employed Nurses" - [OHNIG Summer Newsletter 2016](#)

- Impact of Health Care Changes
- Health Care Levels of Prevention
- Integrative Health Care
- Is it time to ask?
- Members ... What can you do?
- CASE RNs
- Closing Summary