

MEMBERS' VOICES REPORT: October 1 – December 31, 2010
Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing

SUBMITTED BY: Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group OHNIG
Jill King Chairperson

POLICY/POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Expert Panel Recommendations to MOL on Health and Safety Mandatory Training in the Workplace.


The Occupational Health Nurse Interest Group posted on their web site the just released report December 2010. The public consultations revealed that there is a lack of foundational, basic information among workers about the existence of “the green book”: that Ontario has an Occupational Health and Safety Act: and those owners, employers, supervisors and workers all have rights and responsibilities. In the view of the Panel, everyone needs to be aware of these rights and responsibilities, regardless of their role within the workplace.

OHNIG asks everyone to go to the OHNIG web site and click on “*News you can use*” [read more](#). It is important that everyone read the Expert Panel recommendations on **Occupational Health and Safety - Mandatory Health and Safety Training in the Workplace** . Please note these are only recommendations at this point. It replaces nothing right now, therefore there are no penalties attached. However anyone who works in a workplace has a responsibility to know their responsibilities.

College of Nurses of Ontario CNO Proposed New Regulations, about to be Implemented

OHNIG brought to the attention of their members the proposed new regulations about to be implemented by the College of Nurses of Ontario CNO. The proposed amendment will require all Registered Nurses to have mandatory professional liability protection. The members were asked to read the proposal and provide their input by the deadline date. As of December 14, 2010 a decision has not yet been made.

[Proposed Amendments to the General By-Law and Fees By-Law Related to the Registration Regulation](#) 

- [Proposed Amendments to the Registration Regulation](#) 

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

Occupational Health Nurses Professional Practice Profile

OHNIG revised their current professional practice profile. OHNIG followed the RNAO suggested description guideline to write the “*typical day in the work practices an occupational health nurse*”. The occupational health nurse professional practice profile will go on the OHNIG web site on the professional practice page. The Occupational Health Nurse professional profile document will be sent to RNAO to edit and approve for posting on their web site.

MEMBER SERVICES

OHNIG Newsletter

OHNIG now posts their OHNIG newsletters for the Fall and Spring on the OHNIG web site in a printable form. OHNIG members can read at their leisure their OHNIG news. In keeping with our American counterparts AAOHN and Canadian OOHNA healthcare as well as other occupational health and safety associations, OHNIG has gone to an electronic format for newsletters. OHNIG newsletter can be viewed on the website www.ohnig.ca

OHNIG Annual General Meeting AGM Nov. 12, 2010 uses Audio Web Conferencing

OHNIG hosted a first ever at their Nov 12th, 2011 Annual General Meeting. In an effort to reach out to members across the province OHNIG arranged an **audio web conference** meeting. OHNIG members using their home phone and home computer joined the OHNIG AGM. It is a meeting practice OHNIG intends to continue and expand to include more members.

By now everyone reading this realizes that OHNIG is committed to communication with their members through their electronic format - OHNIG web site and E Blasts. Using electronic communication is faster, provides the means to show RNAO occurrences, links OHNIG events and updates and details of internal meetings on a timely basis. OHNIG believes electronic communication will increase the member's awareness and participation.

STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

OHNIG Nursing Student Outreach Program Completed - Quick Tips on Workplace Health and Safety

Did you ever wonder, "*What do I do if I am injured in the work place*"? See the OHNIG web site Students' Corner.

Recognizing a need, OHNIG initiated a Student Outreach Project April 2009. OHNIG strongly felt that the nursing students needed a "heads up" ***quick tips on workplace health and safety*** when placed into a work setting. OHNIG first researched the need, developed their communication and then posted the student "quick tips" on their OHNIG web site November 2010

OHNIG put together a printable presentation for all students to use. This safety information is for their protection at a work. The ***quick tips*** can be shared in the classroom, in group sessions, reviewed independently on line or taken with them to the workplace using a hand internet device.

OHNIG has prepared these ***quick tips*** to alert students to the regulated Health and Safety responsibilities for employers and employees in the workplace. [Please click here to view/print these "quick tips"](#). 