

**MEMBERS' VOICES: FEB - MARCH - APRIL 2013**  
**Speaking out for Nursing: Speaking out for Health**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**OHNIG - Chairperson Jill King Reg. N, B.Sc. (N), COHN(C), COHN-S, Intl. ASA**

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

OHNIG members were alerted to the change in the RNAO voting for resolutions and elected representatives. The new process allowed each member a vote. One Member, One Vote OHNIG members need to register online and voting March 18th to April 4th, 2012

Nursing Students Ontario invited OHNIG to participate and answer Q & A at their student Open House. The purpose is to educate nursing students to the various interest groups within RNAO e.g. UOIT April 1st and Ryerson April 19th(p)

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

**Celebration of Certified Nurse day March 19, 2013**



**OHNIG Members — Did You Know?**

- In Canada and internationally, certified nurses “*care to be the best!*”
- In Canada there are over 17,000 certified Registered Nurse specialists working in a variety of specialty areas of nursing practice... **see CNA**

**What is National Certified Nursing Day March 19th? ...read more**

**Canadian Nurse Association Article - Let's Talk Specialty!**

If you scan my wall calendar, you'll see a big red circle around March 19. For most people it's a date that passes mostly unnoticed, but not for those of us in the world of specialty nursing. After all, March 19 is ***International Certified Nurses Day!*** ... **read more**

**Canadian Certified Occupational Health Nurse Education Fact Sheet - January 2013 ... read more**

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

Public Forum Stakeholders Pilot Meeting - March 5, 2013

OHNIG in cooperation with IPNIG and IB-SIG-RPNAO presented a pilot public forum to Canadian Federation University Women CUFW for stakeholder for input on:

*"Health Care System Challenges and Independent Practice Nurses".*

The panel members presented a power point presentation on the current "facts" of health care system over the past two decades to current times. They noted the health care system current status, existing gaps in health care, changes evolving and cancellations in health care delivery. They noted the role and scope of practice of registered nurses and the existing presence of a huge number of registered nurses outside the public system who would like recognition i.e. independent private practice registered nurses. What would it mean to the public stakeholder if proactive health care was more "right on time" to meet their needs?

The written feedback from the attendees strongly indicated the public lack of knowledge of health care changes in the current system e.g. closure of CCAC [ECCO ... [read the report summary here](#)] and cancellation of multiple smaller units e.g. Diabetic Association. The attendees had misconceptions and scant knowledge that many registered nurses work by their own choice or since terminated as registered nurses from the public system as independent private practice owner operated businesses. The attendees broadly assumed all registered nurses were in the public funded system as opposed to the private funding insurance system or paid solely by the client. The knowledge gained from this pilot public forum will assist with future forums.

### **4. RNAO END: 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.**

Meeting with Frank Klees MPP Newmarket -Aurora to discuss current Ontario health care unsustainable debt and the mega dollars spent on administration and projects, e.g., ORNGE that are not direct client centred health care services. Pointed out the need to modernize the Canada Health Act to include utilization of all health care professional capabilities inclusive of registered nurses, especially the unrecognized health nursing services of independent private practice registered nurses and the need to use modern technology for health care, e.g., "aging in place at home monitoring". Discussion on the financial cost of Health Care and growing needs especially in light of Ontario's 17 billion dollar health care debt. A discussion on how the government planned to increase the needed professional health care services for the aging "Boomer" population, an upcoming tsunami made worse by the extreme lack of long term care facilities. A discussion on the need for federal money appropriately spent to create a national strategy for an integrated national health care system in conjunction with the provinces, inclusive of full utilization of registered nurses from current 10% of nursing capabilities scope of practice to 80% utilization of full scope of nursing care capabilities. [Policy & Practice](#)

OHNIG members on [International Certified Nurses Day March 19](#) were asked to complete an online opinion survey of their perception of Occupational Health Nursing and where did they fit in to the Health Care System. The goal is for feedback from occupational health registered nurses who provide "on site" proactive health care, can navigate the complicated health care system and enable "right on time" nursing care based on primary health care delivery model.