

**OHNIG MEMBERS' VOICES: April 2017 to September 2017**

**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.**

Member Communication February 2017 Newsletter great response:

- Member responded to "pitch" made in newsletter
- Members sent OHNIG over 50 enquires
- Students [2] volunteered to be Executive Member at Large
- OHNIG members volunteered as Executive leaders [2]
- One student asked for role definition as a student representative
- New Executive member acceptance is decided by members at AGM in October
- In progress "Network Meet Ups" per members requests
- Members delighted to learn they can join more than one interest group

**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.**

Occupational Health Nurses National professional standards well under way:

- OHNIG received an Invitation from Alberta Occupational Health Nurses Association (AOHNA) and the Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association (OOHNA) in collaboration with the Canadian Occupational Health Nursing Association (COHNA-ACIIST) to participate in Occupational Health Nursing Indicator Survey in Canada this year, April 2017
- OHNIG members made significant contribution over the past two years by participating in research, i.e., OHN Salary survey (2015) and OHN Indicator Survey in Spring, 2017

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- The "2017 Occupational Health Nursing Indicator Survey" on May 1, 2017 intended to "Raise the Bar" by identifying the many challenges facing the practice of Occupational Health Nurses in Canada ... [Occupational Health Nurses April 2017 Indicator Survey request](#)
- OHNIG participation brought an invitation from COHNA-ACIIST and AOHNA to participate in a National Forum Think Tank on Challenges facing Occupational Health Nursing in Canada ... [more](#)
- Two delegates from OHNIG are attending the National Forum, a first ever for Canada, September 22-23, 2017 in Moncton, New Brunswick
- Two dozen Occupational Health Nurse leaders from across Canada brought together to brainstorm at National Forum to problem solve the challenges facing Occupational Health Nurses
- During the summer months, several OHNIG members participated in qualitative research questions for a PHD Occupational Health Nurse candidate writing her thesis on Independent Practice Nurses Perspectives Canada

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

- For National Nursing Week May 8 -14 OHNIG members actively championed a Rally Call stating Occupational Health Nurses are the "Missing Link"
- Imagery posted during Nursing week showed Occupational Health Nurses the "Missing Link"
- Occupational Health Nurses are "Workplace Change Agents" navigating for all health care needs for their workers and their families
- Occupational Health Nurses do health promotion, prevention strategies, proactive health care
- Occupational Health Nurses protect workers from Injury or Illness by identifying risk hazards ultimately creating healthy workplaces and for healthy workers - a "win-win" for everyone! [www.ohnig.ca](http://www.ohnig.ca)
- Members asked to "Tell Your Special Story of Occupational Health Care to publish for viewers to read" on the OHNIG website

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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. \***

- A small but growing percentage of nurses are reclaiming their traditional right to independent practice in their nursing area of expertise leading to a more modernized sustainable health care system - Self-employed Nurse Entrepreneurs: A Journey of Discovery (Wilson A.;2003) ... [more](#)
- Opportunity to chat about workplace environments with Chris Ballard MMP Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change or his assistant while attending advisory committee council meetings during the year
- OHNIG members on national committee [Ban Asbestos Canada](#) gave further input and involvement with other organizations and activists and now awaiting the updating of the comprehensive asbestos strategy document new version this Fall
- RNAO forwarded request to OHNIG to respond to Needs Assessment Questionnaire "Revision of the Public Health Agency of Canada's 2002 Prevention and Control of Workplace Infections"

## Other

Come join the OHNIG Leaders Team! Without additional help OHNIG is limited!  
Contact OHNIG, [admin@ohnig.ca](mailto:admin@ohnig.ca)

- Opportunities for Occupational Health Nurses on executive
- Member enquiries if OHNIG can post job opportunities?
- Minimal time is expected from volunteers so please volunteer for projects
- Join the national effort by COHNA, IPNIG and OOHNA for OHNs unification
- Join a Rally Call promoting OHNs be included in regulation of workplaces
- Acknowledgement that OHNs need to be a part of today's changing health care world!

Annual AGM notification October 29, 2017 posted on [OHNIG web site](#). Members notified. [Register online](#).