

MEMBERS' VOICES
Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing

Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group

OHNIG Strategic Plan 2012 – 2014 - Progress made Year to Date

Period: January to April 2012 Submitted by Jill King – OHNIG Chairperson

OHNIG Strategic Plan 2012 - 2014 is to:

1. Advocate Professional Practice Profile and Scope of Occupational Health Nurse Work
2. Communicate "OHNIG Newsletters" by E-Blast pertinent and helpful OH Nurse News
3. Collaborate with other Interest Groups on Co-sponsoring Education Workshops
4. Provide Workplace Health and Safety "*Quick Tips*" for All Nurses to Work Safely
5. Create on line Safety Video Clips "*Nurses Take Care - Be Aware*"
6. Promote Best Practice Guidelines for Healthy Work Environments BPG HWE
7. Promote Occupational Health Nurses as Prevention Specialists & Change Agents in the Workplace Community ... [click to view brochure](#)

In the first quarter 2012, OHNIG concentrated on member education

- Collaborate with other Interest Groups on Co-sponsoring Education Workshops
- Create on line Safety Video Clips "*Nurses Take Care - Be Aware*"
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- Promote Occupational Health Nurses as Prevention Specialists & Change Agents in the Workplace Community ... [click to view brochure](#)

OHNIG promoted two education workshops for their members. What is significant is the two Interest Groups co sponsored the cost of the workshop resulting in reduction of costs to one half to each Interest Group. In addition IPNIG and OHNIG "took the show on the road" when invited to Windsor Essex RNAO Chapter to present the workshop. Again a significant savings by sharing costs three way.

On March 31st 2012 OHNIG co sponsored an education workshop for the Windsor Essex RNAO Chapter. The workshop titled "Pearls and Perils" provided case studies of successful registered nurses in independent practice plus presentations from two business experts on the pros and cons of operating their own business and funding resources available. OHNIG plans in the future to offer to take this co-sponsored workshop to other locations.

On Saturday April 28th the OHNIG and IPNIG co share costs for the IG breakfast meeting the day following the RNAO AGM. The presentation includes a motivational speaker "Accelerating Your Career" and business experts describing the "Nuts and Bolts" of business start up. The teaming up and co-sponsoring meant savings that allowed OHNIG to offer the breakfast education at no cost to their members. These workshops let members gain immensely from "Networking" and learning by talking one-on-one to the presenters, to each other and to successful registered nurses in their own business.

OHNIG finalized their second safety video clip **Nurse Take Care Be Aware!** It can be found on the OHNIG web site under <http://www.ohnig.ca/links/links.html> This may help nurses to work safely In light of the recent passing of Bill 160 that transfers from WSIB the Prevention Branch to Ministry of Labour and the mandate for training workers. <http://www.ohnig.ca/newsyoucanuse/newsyoucanuse.html>

OHNIG has a third safety video clip scheduled for September.

OHNIG publically expresses a thank you to Canadian Nurses Association for highlighting the role of Occupational Health Nurses specialty nursing practice in the workplace community. CNA Journal April 2012 details the many ways Occupational Health Nurses practice prevention and protect the health and safety of workers. OHNIG has asked each of their members to send a personal thank you to CNA.

The OHNIG posted on their web site recently the *CNA Expert Commission* status report – the impact nurses make! Proving again the oldest certification [CNA1984] Occupational Health Nursing is now joined by a growing number of nurses with specialty practices that impact community health at home at work and at play! [Now Certification is recognized for University credit.](#)

CNA Expert Commission

“In its work, the Commission will focus on the impact nurses can have on the overall health and well-being of Canadians. The nurses are, after all, the biggest professional group in Canada’s health-care system. Canada’s 266,000 registered nurses are directly involved with patients, families and communities in a wide variety of settings, providing care in all levels of the health system and across the lifespan and continuum of care. In addition to multiple clinical settings, nurses work in research, leadership, policy and education. ... more

Occupational Health Nurses provide quality professional nursing care in the work place community. The Occupational Health Nurse members need to tell the communities they offer specialized skilled professional nursing services, easily accessible, with early intervention to treat a host of primary health and safety problems related to workers in the work place as well as help to their family members. A timely health care service prevents the client’s decline to more serious health care problems and it all starts with prevention!