

# OHNIG E NEWS

**O.H.N.I.G.**



**E NEWS EVENTS  
# 21**

**Sept. 29, 2007**

**OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH NURSE  
INTEREST GROUP**

**OHNIG  
is an interest group of  
RNAO**

[http://www.rnao.org/about/interest\\_groups/index.asp](http://www.rnao.org/about/interest_groups/index.asp)

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**RNAO  
WEBSITE**

<http://www.rnao.org/>

**OHNIG  
WEBSITE**

[www.ohnig.org](http://www.ohnig.org)

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1. Occupational Health Nurse Interest Group (OHNIG) spent the year in "Survey Mode"

2. Ontario Health Workplace Coalition is Established May 2007

3. Canada's Healthy Workplace Week 2007 –It's All About Valuing People

4. A Success Story of the Integration of Health and Safety into an Organization  
- Interview by Liz McGroarty

5. The Day in a Life of a Self-Employed Occupational Health Nurse in Northern Ontario

6. OHNIG Member get a Member – Helpful information to help you get a new member

7. Student Corner

8. All members invited to meeting Oct 19th

PLEASE make sure we have a correct E Mail address for you. [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)

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1. Occupational Health Nurse Interest Group (OHNIG) spent the year in "Survey Mode"

The OHNIG executive determined, after the three year period of set up, growth and accomplishments that it was time to determine what the membership wanted. As you know, OHNIG began in April 2, 2003 by submitting a letter signed by 14 nurses requesting membership to RNAO as an Interest group, the required application and the OHNIG Constitution and Bylaws. The time had come to see what we were about.

This was done in conjunction with RNAO intention to review the interest groups. Doris Grinspun wrote to OHNIG " we do have a session at our next Assembly October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, to discuss what works and what doesn't with our current structures. I am also in the midst of developing a survey that will go out immediately after Labour Day to assess Interest Group effectiveness and how we can keep strengths and improve weaknesses".

To that effort over the past year [2006 – 2007] the OHNIG leaders staged a variety of ways to reach the Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group members to identify their needs and any gaps that could be met with new OHNIG energy. OHNIG used mailed surveys, on line polls, e mail enquiry memos and direct calling to random members. The net results have been compiled and all members will be receiving the results by mail shortly.

**Ontario Healthy  
Workplace Coalition**

<http://www.thcu.ca/workplace/coalition.htm>

Candidates names may  
be viewed here

<http://www.thcu.ca/workplace/election/candidates.cfm>

**Canadian Healthy  
Workplace Council**

<http://www.healthyworkplaceweek.ca/>

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Getting Started  
Check out these ideas

<http://www.healthyworkplaceweek.ca/started.php>

**2. Ontario Health Workplace Coalition (OHWC) is Established May 2007**

OHNIG was invited to participate in Nov. 2006 on the “acting” steering committee for the development of the Ontario Healthy Workplace Coalition (OHWC). The start up of the coalition was under the leadership of the Health Communication Unit of the Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto.

The steering committee was made up of a group of diversified health service representatives. [see sidebar link] Over the next few months OHNIG participated on the “acting” steering committee in the development of a strategic plan, terms of reference and the coalition purpose and nomination process for the *NEW* coalition.

The “acting” steering committee presented a symposium March 27-28, 2007 to allow invited stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into the new coalition’s strategic direction, increase their knowledge of the Coalition’s formation and provide a forum for discussion on workplace health. The group determined the effort of the *NEW* OHWC coalition would be to coordinate and support external workplace health professionals and resources to provide better comprehensive workplace and worker health resources and initiatives for Ontario workplaces.

The ‘acting” steering committee accepted nominations from this group and the election took place “on line” May 4 to May 18, 2007. I am happy to report that RNAO Irmajean Bajnok was successful in being elected to this new group. The OHWC new steering committee will be challenged to develop guides and linkages for organizations to the myriad of Ontario workplace health service providers. The OHWC will hopefully format consistent guidelines and coordinate a professional healthy workplace service providers “roadmap” that can be accessed for use to establish Healthy Workplaces for Healthy Workers.

Submitted by Jill King OHNIG Communication Officer

**3. Canada’s Healthy Workplace Week 2007 – It’s All About Valuing People**

Canada's Healthy Workplace Week 2007 runs from October 22 to 28, 2007.

The Healthy Workplace week is overseen by the Canadian Healthy Workplace Council. The theme for Canada’s Healthy Workplace Week 2007 is *It’s All About Valuing People*. The Council includes representatives from leading organizations and practitioners in the field of workplace health, and is dedicated to increasing awareness of the positive connection between employee health and organizational productivity, profitability and long-term success.

A healthy workplace is one that focuses on healthy lifestyles, occupational health and safety, and organizational culture. A healthy workplace is also a place where individuals and the organization both thrive and take responsibility for improving their own health, as well as creating a healthy workplace environment.

Canada’s Healthy Workplace Week is about celebrating what is going right in your organization and learning about what can be done to make things better. It is up to you to discover WHAT is working well in YOUR organization?

Experience from workplaces across Canada have shown that a healthy workplace has the following characteristics:

Improve your Organization

National Quality Institute

<http://www.nqi.ca/>

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OHNIG members  
WHAT ACTIONS ARE  
YOU TAKING IN  
Healthy Workplace Week

Send us your success stories

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See:

The Institute For Work and Health (IWH) issue 48 – Spring 2007, page 7, outlines early findings in their study “Ontario’s Patient Lift Initiative” for the Ontario Government.

OHNIG member Liz McGroarty sits on the advisory board representing RNAO. ([http://www.iwh.on.ca/archive/pdfs/at\\_48.pdf](http://www.iwh.on.ca/archive/pdfs/at_48.pdf))

RNAO Professional Practice Pages

<http://www.rnao.org/Pages.aspx?PageID=1224&SiteNodeID=340&BLExpandID=>

- Continually integrates health into business planning;
- Goes beyond health and safety;
- Fosters organizational effectiveness;
- Maintains a positive work atmosphere that is safe, supportive, and satisfying;
- Creates an environment that makes it easier for employees to take responsibility for their own health.

Canada’s Healthy Workplace Week is a web-based initiative that highlights both events and resources. The website [www.healthyworkplaceweek.ca](http://www.healthyworkplaceweek.ca) has ideas for all type of organizations seeking to enhance their success through promoting the well being of employees and a healthy workplace environment.

The Canada’s Healthy Workplace Week website is available as your one-stop, year-round resource for workplace health.

4. A Success Story of the Integration of Health and Safety into an Organization  
- Interview by Liz McGroarty

One of OHNIG’s stated objectives is to market internally and externally – in other words, to be involved with other nurses and influence their practice, with emphasis on prevention of illness and injury and promotion of health. So we are always happy to notice our members doing just that. Susan McIntyre, RN, COHN(C), CRSP, BHA was the only COHN(C) listed in the program for RNAO’s Best Practice Guidelines Conference in June this year. I went to interview Susan and find out more about the presentation.

Susan has been at St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto since 2005, as Clinical Leader/ Manager, and has successfully interacted with management to have the “Employee Health Unit” renamed as “Corporate Health and Safety Services”. She, along with Glynis Aguiar BSc. Kin, AE and Julia Chatterji BA, gave the presentation entitled Best Practice for Healthcare Project Management, with stated objective of identifying successful elements for implementation of organizational health and safety change. Background, tools and methodology, successes and challenges were outlined.

Much of the case was centered around Patient Lift technology, with gap analysis, purchase of equipment, creation of training teams, and measuring and celebrating success as elements of the program. Using a Strategic Organizational Change Framework that includes practical and emotional elements got “buy in” from many strategic departments and managers. Overexertion injury statistics as well as participation statistics showed the benefits of a dynamic program involving as many hospital stakeholders as possible. Identifying future challenges and accountabilities provides continuity for this sustainable organizational change program.

Thanks, Susan, for your work in promoting organizational health and safety!  
Submitted respectfully by Liz McGroarty – past chairperson OHNIG

5. The Day in a Life of a Self-Employed Occupational Health Nurse in Northern Ontario

This just “hot off the press” as the saying goes.

OHNIG member and most recently OHNIG newest executive committee member Louise Caicco Tett, RN, BScN, CRSP of Sault Ste Marie submitted to OHNIG a professional practice page for our membership to read. Louise summary review of a “day in the life of a self employed occupational health nurse in northern Ontario” outlines the skills, the comprehension of health and safety required, the business

Occupational Health  
Nurse Professional  
Practice  
See page

[http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=1065&SiteNodeID=340&BL\\_ExpandID=](http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=1065&SiteNodeID=340&BL_ExpandID=)

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OHNIG WEB SITE -



[www.ohnig.org](http://www.ohnig.org)

**OHNIG  
Member get a Member**

OHNIG goal is 50 new  
members

(Of course if there are  
more we will certainly  
not turn any away!)

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"WANTED: Occupational  
Health Nurses involved  
in University and College  
student health  
requirements for Health  
Sciences programs, to  
share information about  
best practices, by email  
discussions. Contact Liz  
McGroarty at  
[liz.mcg@sympatico.ca](mailto:liz.mcg@sympatico.ca) as  
soon as possible."

components and the team work needed to accomplish her daily tasks.

Louise's work description will also become a part of the OHNIG web site to aid others to understand the varying ways occupational health nurses function in prevention, education, program establishment and mentoring of the occupational health and safety skills. Louise review will be added to the RNAO web site professional practice section in response to RNAO request for updates. Louise description of her day to day work has been sent to you in your mailed package

Louise thank your for your "awesome" description and I know your effort to share is appreciated by all the OHNIG members  
Keep up the good work.

A big thank you Louise and welcome to the OHNIG team leadership group!

#### 6. OHNIG Member get a Member – Helpful information to help you get a new member

You will receive shortly an OHNIG membership package containing "OHNIG member get a member" information. The package includes a variety of material.

The "OHNIG member get a member" package is intended as a refresher for our current members to the many benefits of belonging to RNAO and to OHNIG Interest Group. The mailed information is meant to serve as hands on resource to give to a potential new RNAO/OHNIG member. The mailed information includes – RNAO membership information, CNA Certification guidelines, an OHNIG interest group brochure, a description of a day in the life of an occupational health nurse professional, the ONHIG newsletter and OHNIG survey results.

Tell all your friends about the many benefits and ask them to take advantage of the by joining RNAO i.e. different insurance packages, reduce fees, membership in CNA Note that an occupational health nurses should be asked to indicate to join OHNIG on the application form. If the new member puts your name as the contact you receive a \$20.00 certificate toward your own membership.

Let's all maximize our efforts and put this information material in the hands of a potential new member.

#### 7, Student Corner

The Occupational Health Nurse Interest Group (OHNIG) allowed free membership for student nurses to join OHNIG in the year 2006 - 2007. We were pleasantly surprised by the substantial number of student nurses joined (266). This posed the question to the OHNIG executive group, what can we do to help the student nurse members.

The executive of OHNIG discussed how to put something useful out to their student members. It was suggested to have a "Student Corner" in the E Newsletter and/or on the web site. In the coming year we are hoping to get students who will act as communication liaison with their schools on this OHNIG project. This new approach to help students has yet to be tested and is still in the developmental stage.

OHNIG complies with the Privacy Act per RNAO <http://www.rnao.org/privacy.asp> If you receive this e-mail as a service of your membership in the OHNIG and wish your name removed contact [ohnig@rogers.com](mailto:ohnig@rogers.com)