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Newsletter 27

September 29, 2010

O.H.N.I.G.



**OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH NURSES
INTEREST GROUP**

**OHNIG E Newsletter #27
Sept 29, 2010**

**Jill King
Communication Editor
jking@ohnig.ca**

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Association](#)**

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1 “Back to the Future” – CNO Proposed Amendments Changes.

Has everyone read the College of Nurses of Ontario Proposed Amendments to the Registration Regulation? I received my copy last Friday by mail. In reading the content I noted the absence or any reference to CNA accreditation or certification. I had a hard time discerning from the myriad of “ways” presented were I fitted in! As a COHN(C) the closest I could identify to were the sections in General Class Registered Nurse. Can someone let me know if I am correct? (General Class Registered Nurse. Page 10 section 8. iii B or page 10 # 2). <http://www.cno.org/en/what-is-cno/regulation-and-legislation/registration-regulation-and-by-law-amendments/>

My initial thought “Did I miss something?” Is a National Certification through the Canadian Nurses Association not a valid recognized nursing qualification for the College registration? Is this a question I/we should ask the College of Nurses? Personally, having just received from CNA my Letter of Recognition and Gold Pin embossed as a 25 year veteran that attests to my qualifying every five years to the accreditation requirements for COHN(C), I admit I may be very concerned. Should a question be posed to the College of Nurses to incorporate certification as a part of their proposed RN regulation requirements?

What is certification? CNA certification is a voluntary, recognized credential for registered nurses who meet specific nursing practice criteria, continuous learning and exam-based testing requirements. The credential, which must be renewed every five years, confirms that an RN has demonstrated competence in a nursing specialty/area of nursing practice by having met predetermined standards. Click on CNA left side bar.

I wonder if the College of Nurses understands the complexity and diversity of the work performed by the modern 21st century Professional Registered Nurse. Not to mention that a large group of **very experienced nurses** may just **disappear** due to an oversight by the College of Nurses! I am confused by the plethora of terms and sections of non specific generalize terms in the College’s proposed amendment information booklet. How can we help get the College to expand their knowledge to the “new” registered nurse? Who/ What and Where is the insurance provider for the stipulated amount of coverage stated in the proposed amendment?

Do we need an open letter to the College of Nurses asking if the specialty nursing certification is a valid inclusion in Registered Nurse regulation? Do we join with other registered nurses who have obtained certification to ask “why not us”? Let us join together so Registered Nurses do not become EC [Extinct Class].

Back to the Future to determine Registered Nurses Registration Regulations!
Deadline to respond to the College [Deadline for College of Nurses submissions Nov 29, 2010](#)

Jill King OHNIG Chair jking@ohnig.ca

**POLICY, PRACTICE and
POLITICAL ACTION**

Action alert:

**Tell the CRTC Today to
Stand Firm Against
Political Interference**

http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=3310&SiteNodeID=403&BL_ExpandID=

Action alert:

**Tell Mountain Crest
Brewing Company to
discontinue offensive
advertising
campaign**

http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=3318&SiteNodeID=403&BL_ExpandID=

Best Practice Guidelines

<http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=861&SiteNodeID=133>

New

**Healthy Work
Environments Best Practice
Guides**

<http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=861&SiteNodeID=241>

2. A Few Highlights - Interest Chairs Meeting and RNAO Assembly

I represented OHNIG at the recent Interest Group Chairs [Sept 24th] and the RNAO Assembly [Sept. 25th] meetings. The upcoming year 2011 is an election year and the RNAO “group” is in full stride.

The RNAO political platform targets the Social Determinants of Health i.e. *Poor No More, Hunger Gone, Affordable Housing and Dignity for All*. Other issues on RNAO political platform they are generating political action include i.e. Gun Registry, Long Form Census, Water Environment Changes, Climate Change and the Closing of Coal Plants.

The RNAO head office has a dynamite staff that sends to all RNAO members i.e. “news clips” to keep you updated. The RNAO staff more recently started ACTION ALERTS. Doris asked that all members take time to respond. Our strength is in the numbers.

One of the most recent Action Alerts is the potential political interference with CRTC that could enable the entrance of Fox News North to Canada. The USA FOX News has a long history of controversial political “*far out*” reporting. Use the link on the left side bar and take time to be aware of the problem.

Action Alerts are sent to members so they can respond i.e. sign the petitions. Doris expressed the need for mobilizing the nurses to action to write premiers, send letters and get involved. Do you know what your vote is for?

Here are just a few other highlights that are pertinent to OHNIG

- Interest groups chairperson will now attend two meetings with the Interest Group Representative to the RNAO Board. This is intended to promote better communication and create a forum for improved dialogue, support/promote activities for RNAO END Goals, and collaborate on health policy issues.
- Interest Groups to promote Best Practice Guidelines (42). Specifically to distribute information on Champions and their positions in doing BPG
- Several Nurses questioned RNAO action regarding the Physician Assistant PA. The PA are now working in the hospital and emergency rooms. The nurses alerted RNAO that there is role/ reporting conflict for work performed and by whose authority since the PA do not work for the hospital.
- RNAO urged to continue Membership drives. For example students can be preceptor from school to learn on the job as well learning about RNAO. Also refer or do workshops so students know where they can be placed.

Has any Occupational Health Nurse taken their MPP to their workplace?

What political actions/issues do Occupational Health Nurses feel are important to become involved?

Let OHNIG know and we will tell the story!

Policy, Practice and Political Action

Jill King OHNIG jking@ohnig.ca

Best Practice Guideline

Summary of the Recommendations for Workplace Health, Safety and Well-Being of the Nurse Guideline

http://www.rnao.org/Storage/36/3090_RNAO_BP_G_Health_Safety_summary.pdf

**RNAO By-law 7.01
FUNCTIONS OF
INTEREST GROUPS**

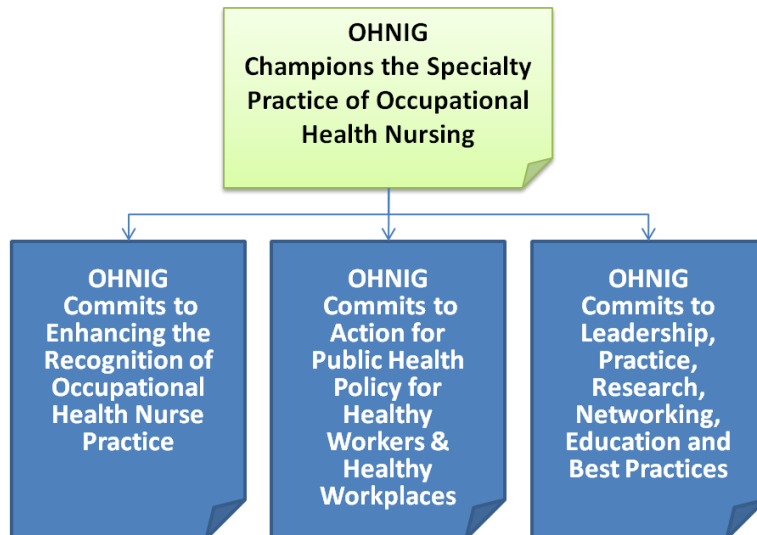
In accordance with Article 7.01 of the RNAO by-laws Interest Groups are required to serve their members via regular communication among the group. Article 7.01 (3) reads; "to serve members of the interest group via regular communications with a minimum of two communications (letters/emails/phone calls/newsletters) to all members of the interest group per year, and a minimum of one membership meeting (face-to-face, audio or video-conference) per year."

3 OHNIG Champion Advisors means a Win-Win for the OHNIG Membership!

OHNIG has a new strategy! It is the creation of OHNIG "Champion Advisors" to help achieve OHNIG goals. The "Champions Advisors" are predominantly registered nurses who have transitioned into another health care area or a related area of expertise i.e. law.

The "Champions Advisors" are willing to advise OHNIG on specific questions relating to OHNIG goals. The "Champion Advisors" provide guidelines, resources and "facts" on specific issues or topics beyond the scope of OHNIG leaders. The "Champions Advisors" cover a diverse range of expertise. Here are some examples [but not limited too] i.e. academics, researchers esp. workplace injury, CRA tax and insurance experts, savvy business leaders, MPP i.e. with prevention mandates, legal advisers, guidance career counselors, mentoring and even students with ability in Art Technology to help us prepare OHNIG videos.

OHNIG Champion Advisors means a win-win for the OHNIG membership GOALS!



4 "Raising the Bar" for the OHNIG Annual General Meeting Nov 12, 2010 4:00 to 6:00 pm

OHNIG is "Raising the Bar" for their Annual General Meeting. OHNIG is seeking a way to use modern communication technology. OHNIG is investigating a way to have OHNIG members attend the AGM via internet. This is **new initiative for OHNIG**. The OHNIG member would sit in front of their computer, hear and see the OHNIG executive and can email their questions for response. OHNIG knows we can use telephone conference calling and will consider this as an alternative.

If anyone in the OHNIG membership has knowledge or expertise on how best to do this please send a note to admin@ohnig.ca. Please check the OHNIG AGM updates on our website www.ohnig.ca

VOLUNTEERS

Please consider completing the OHNIG nomination form

<http://www.ohnig.ca/upcomingevents/upcomingevents.html>

[http://](http://www.rnao.org/privacy.asp) **RNAO BPG iPhone App Now Available**

With RNAO's new iPhone app, you can now keep a copy of all the Nursing Best Practice Guidelines in your pocket. This app provides access to up to date, evidence based research for nurses to use in their practice anywhere, anytime.

[Find out more](#)



5 Volunteers are Needed for Project Work – Get Involved!

The Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group needs volunteer members to step up to the plate and help with the work in progress. The OHNIG executive has executive spots just waiting for your help see <http://www.ohnig.ca/contact/contactohnig.html>

- How about Membership i.e. OHNIG gives you a phone card to call and talk to people!
- How about Secretary i.e. minutes recorded on line during the meeting – no problem!
- How about Research –searching on line for research to support H & S and OH Nurses!
- How about – Member at Large project – member survey summary and report!
- How about - student workplace mentor program or students helping with IT technology!

OHNIG promises that your time and commitment are kept to a minimum. The RNAO requires

..to serve members of the interest group via regular communications with a minimum of two communications (letters/emails/phone calls/newsletters) to all members of the interest group per year, and a minimum of one membership meeting (face-to-face, audio or video-conference) per year

OHNIG meetings are done by teleconferencing and e mails keep us in the loop! OHNIG has ease of member communication using timely E Blasts. The OHNIG web site is our main bulletin board for member upcoming events and news alerts.

OHNIG volunteers or executive may also volunteer to attend one of three RNAO meetings during the year. The volunteer delegate incurs no costs as your expenses for travel, accommodation and food are paid by RNAO/OHNIG. A win-win again! Want more background Here's talking to you admin@ohnig.ca

6 Student Health and Safety Workplace “quick tips” had a Reality Check!

OHNIG executive carrying forward an initiative from last year. The plan was to give a “quick tips” pocket guide alerting a nursing student to workplace risks and the health and safety regulations they needed to know. Our pilot test performed with a few student stakeholders reversed our thinking. The cost /benefit of providing a hard copy of “Health and Safety” guides to students was not feasible. OHNIG did a 360 degree turn around.

OHNIG has posted on the “Student Corner” a letter from a fellow nursing student appealing to all students to know their responsibilities to protect themselves when at an employer workplace. The Student “quick clips” guidelines can be accessed on line.

See “Student Corner” <http://www.ohnig.ca/studentcorner/studentcorner.html>

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 jking@ohnig.ca