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| **Registered Nurse First Assistant Interest Group** | **Winter 2017**  **Issue** |
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| **RNFA Resolution to the RNAO AGM**  As the Chair of the RNAO RNFA Interest Group I have produced a resolution to put forward at the AGM on April 12th, 2019. Over the past year, I have received a few inquiries from RNFA’s, surgeons and administrators about expanding the funding received from the MOHLTC for the RNFA role. I have received suggestions for some slight changes to the resolution, but we will only be able to change it at the AGM. In its original form it reads:  *Resolution to the AGM of the RNAO 2019*  *Whereas the Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) assists with patient care throughout a patients entire perioperative experience and works collaboratively with the surgeon and the entire surgical team to produce positive outcomes for the patient, and …*  *Whereas the Ontario government funding model presently funds approximately (still trying to get this exact number) permanent RNFA positions in the province, and …*  *Whereas funding from the provincial government does not provide for any new positions that have evolved or the need been recognized since the last funding grant in 2012,*  *Therefore be it resolved that the Registered Nurses’ Association of Ontario lobby the provincial government for ongoing funding for the creation of new RNFA positions in Ontario when and where needed.*  *Continued on next page…*  *An RNFA is an experienced perioperative (operating room) nurse who has acquired additional education, knowledge and judgement, along with advanced technical skills to function effectively as an assistant to the surgeon throughout a patient's perioperative (surgical) experience.*  *The RNFA functions collaboratively with the surgeon and operating room team to perform a safe operation with optimal patient outcomes.*  *In May 2006, the Surgical First Assist role (RNFA) was announced as part of the HealthForceOntario strategy. The RNFA initiative supports the reduction of wait times for surgical services by ensuring the availability of the appropriate surgical staff; most operations require a first assist, however, Ontario was facing a shortage of practitioners who traditionally function as the assistant – family physicians and/or medical residents and students. Without the availability of the appropriate surgical staff, the number of surgeries performed remained constant and wait times increased. Creation of these new roles helps to address this shortage and supports recruitment/retention strategies by presenting new opportunities for career enhancement and development of new skills.*  *The original RNFA Pilot Project started with Round 1 in 2007 with 15 organizations and 31.75 FTE’s. It was so successful that in 2008 Round 2 was initiated with 12 new organizations and 15.3 FTE’s. Surgeon and staff satisfaction surveys were very favorable. The project was found to have moderate to significant impact on reducing surgical wait times, increasing patient access to surgery, minimizing surgical cancellations, enhancing a team-based model of care, and enhancing patient safety/outcomes.*  *In 2012 another call went out to provincial hospitals and several more hospitals were granted funding for the RNFA role. Since then, no new funds have been granted, despite hospitals and surgeons asking the government for help with this position.*  *It is our hope that RNAO will assist the provincial RNAO-RNFA Interest Group in obtaining the funding from the provincial government that is needed by hospitals to help them supply high quality, consistent perioperative care for their patients.*  **There are Resolution Consultation Sessions held on Thursday evening where we can propose changes in wording if necessary. Please consider attending on Thursday evening and the RNAO AGM on Friday, April 12, 2019 to show support for the resolution.**  **To Register for the entire AGM, please follow this link:** [**https://rnao.ca/events/94th-annual-general-meeting-agm**](https://rnao.ca/events/94th-annual-general-meeting-agm)  **The RNAO RNFA Interest Group will also be holding a Breakfast Meeting on Saturday, April 13 at 0830-1100 at the Hilton Toronto, 145 Richmond Street West, Toronto. Use the following link to register for the Breakfast. We will need numbers ahead of time so we know how many breakfasts to order. A small fee will be charged for the breakfast. Even if you are not able to make it for the AGM, please plan on coming to the breakfast meeting.** <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/agm/2019>  **After the breakfast meeting is done, plan to stay to see the Keynote Speaker at the RNAO AGM.**  **RNAO Queens Park Day and Assembly Highlights**  For the 19th year in a row, RNAO Members from across the province participated in the RNAO Queens Park Day, #QPDay2019. This year over 150 RN’s, Nurse Practitioners and Nursing Students attended. We met with more than 60 members of provincial parliament (MPP’s) from all parties at breakfast meetings. It was an opportunity for RNAO members to engage with our elected representatives and provide them with RNAO’s vision for health care. Following breakfast we were invited to Question Period, where we watched our elected officials in action and heard first-hand, about the pressing issues facing Ontarians.  After Question Period we were treated to speeches and Q&A from Christine Elliott, PC Party, Minister of Health; Andrea Horwath, NDP Party Leader; John Fraser, Interim Liberal Party Leader and Mike Schreiner, Green Party Leader. It was interesting to hear each parties stand on health care issues.  Later that evening, I attended a meeting for Interest Group Chairs, where I learned all about some of the new tools that RNAO has developed for Interest Groups to use. (Like this newsletter template)  The following day was the Assembly Meeting where we heard reports from RNAO President Angela Cooper Brathwaite and Chief Executive Officer Doris Grinspun about what they have been doing for the organization since the last Assembly, September 2018. There was a review of Queens Park Day 2019 and discussion about next steps on the issues that were discussed. We were given an update on the new and improved digital version of the Registered Nurse Journal which will go live soon. We also had a review of the RNAO Best Practice Guidelines.  RNAO’s 12 regions are divided into 35 chapters. The Assembly is made up of representatives from each chapter and region, as well as representatives from RNAO’s 30 interest groups.  **RNFA-Ontario Website Issues**  Members who have been making use of the Forums and Message Boards on the RNFA-Ontario.ca website have raised concern that the website appears to be “Not Secure”. I will be in touch in the near future with our webmaster, David Melmer, to try to fix this problem. We will also be updating the site, as it has not been done in quite a long time. Stay tuned.  If you have forgotten your password for the website and would like to make use of the website Message Boards, please email David directly at admin@rnfa-ontario.ca    **York University Nursing Student Career Fair**  I was very excited to attend the 2019 York University Nursing Career Fair on March 7th, 2019. It was a forum for RNAO Interest Groups to promote their specialty to BScN nursing students. I was very pleased with the turnout of the students and with the curiosity and all the well thought out questions that they had. I feel that the future of nursing in Ontario looks very good! C:\Users\Jane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\KVDG9D7O\WhatsApp Image 2019-03-07 at 19 11 12 (002).jpegC:\Users\Jane\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\KVDG9D7O\IMG_4155.jpg  **Member Questions and News**  In this section, I will post questions that members have posed to me through emails and news about RNFA’s in Ontario. I am not sure what the RNAO policy is about putting member emails on here, so I will ask members to send their answers and comments to me and I will forward them on to the person who asked the question/sent the news. My email is [jradey@vianet.ca](mailto:jradey@vianet.ca). I hope that many of you will answer and comment. The more information we share, the stronger we are.  Email #1  Good morning.  My name is Caralee Bolton and I work currently at Brant Community Health Care in Brantford with Michelle Russell.  We are having some issues with our nurses wanting us to relieve staff and do duties that are nursing while we are assisting.  We are wanting to make up a job description with duties we are to do and not to do while we are assisting.  We need some help and advice from other RNFAs in Ontario in what is expected of them in their hospital and an example of job description with duties etc.  Also if they are allowed to do call... and how it's balanced between MD assistants and RNFA.  We are also being told, because our pay comes from the government through a different budget, that we can't choose to be paid overtime or take as lieu time, only that we can take as lieu... so how do other hospitals do this?  If you have any insight or someone we can contact, that would be greatly appreciated!!  Many thanks.  Caralee Bolton  Send your responses to me and I will forward them on to Caralee.  Email #2  Share story - Introducing... a cardiac registered nurse first assistant  <https://hhsshare.ca/news/cardiac-registered-nurse-first-assistant/>  cid:image002.jpg@01CF02F0.44986B80  This link was shared by member Faye Brown, a cardiac RNFA employed by Hamilton Health Sciences. Please follow the link for her story that the hospital published about her. This is great publicity for the role of the Registered Nurse First Assistant. Thanks for sharing, Faye!  **Thank You For Reading!**  I really hope that you, as an RNAO-RNFA Interest Group Member, have benefitted from reading this newsletter. If you have anything to share with the Interest Group, please forward it on to me and I will share with the group.  Please try to attend the RNAO AGM to help show support and cheer on our resolution and attend the RNFA Breakfast Meeting. Hope to see you all there!  Thanks very much!  Jane  Jane Radey RN, RNFA, CPN(C)  RNAO RNFA Interest Group Chair  [jradey@vianet.ca](mailto:jradey@vianet.ca)  logo  rnfa-ontario.ca  Jane Radey RN, RNFA, CPN(C)  [jradey@vianet.ca](mailto:jradey@vianet.ca) | **In this issue:**  **RNFA Resolution to the RNAO AGM**  **RNAO Queens Park Day and Assembly Highlights**  **RNFA-Ontario Website Issues**  **Member Questions** |
| **Upcoming events:**  **1) RNFA Funding Resolution presentation at the RNAO Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 12, 2019**  **2) Breakfast Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 0830-1100 at the Hilton Toronto, 145 Richmond Street West, Toronto. To Register for the meeting please follow this link:**  <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/agm/2019>  **A small fee will be charged for the breakfast.** |