

MEMBERS' VOICES: September 2020 – February 2021
Speaking out for nursing - Speaking out for health

SUBMITTED BY: Paul-André Gauthier, RN, CNS; PhD (nursing)
Provincial President, Rainbow - RNIG.

END: Engage with registered nurses and nursing students to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization.

- We are representing the Rainbow Nursing Interest Group (Association in Ontario).
 - Association des infirmières et infirmiers arc-en-ciel de l'Ontario.
- To contact me: my email: pgauthier@rmao.ca
- Our numbers are – as an association:
 - As of Oct. 31, 2019: total # 1,070 (RNs / NPs: 92 and B.Sc.N. students 978).
 - As of January 23, 2020: total # 896 (RNs / NPs: 96 and B.Sc.N. students 800).
 - As of January 8, 2021: total # **1,190** (RNs / NPs: 96 and B.Sc.N. students 1,087).
- Members can find information that we post regularly on our **Facebook** and Website to add information and encourage members to contribute. We are keeping members and nursing students informed. Our links are:
 - **Information-RNIG** : <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/interestgroup/58/about>
 - <https://rmao.ca/connect/interest-groups/rnig>
 - Previous email messages : <https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/interestgroup/58/email/903>
 - **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RainbowNursing/>
 - **Newsletter- March 2021 Newsletter (13 pages) and we have included our Resolution that will be presented at the Provincial RNAO AGM June 2021. (<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2021-03/RNIG-Rainbow-Newsletter-March-2021-.pdf>)**
- We responded to e-mails from members and non-members who are interested about association and activities.
- Eight (8) emails were sent to members on various topics since last August. For example: informing the members of the new Executive; holiday wishes and the latest Newsletter.
- We hosted our RNIG-Rainbow AGM on September 2nd, 2020 on Zoom for all interested members to attend.

END: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health.

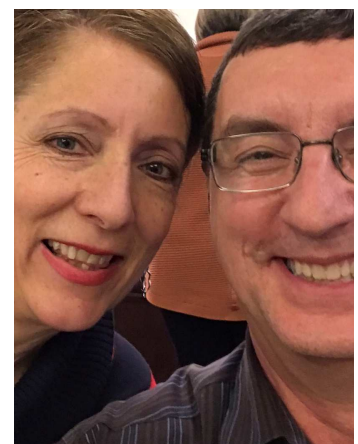
- The President adds comments on the Facebook of Radio-Canada (French radio & television). Also, he posts “FACTS” about **Covid-19** and **vaccination** on the 2 local Newspapers’ Facebook (The Sudbury Star and Sudbury .com).

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

- **Federal Submission** May 17, 2019 -LGBTQ2S+:
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/HESA/Brief/BR10506788/br-external/RainbowNursingInterestGroup-e.pdf> (English)
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/HESA/Brief/BR10506788/br-external/RainbowNursingInterestGroup-10049158-f.pdf> (Français)
- Paul-André was involved from December 2020 to February 2021 in discussions at the provincial and national levels in regard to MAID. Bill 3 (Compassionate Care Act) and Bill C-7 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying-MAID)).
- In January-February, our Past-President did three interviews with Radio-Canada in French (Windsor, Toronto, Northern Ontario/Sudbury) regarding concerns of nursing staff burnout during the pandemic and the need of support for the public regarding physical distancing, wearing a mask, hand washing, and staying home when so ordered.

END: 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.

- Political action regarding health care:
 - The President shared the political action which he undertook in representing and speaking on behalf of our association in his meetings and media interviews.
 - Since last summer, Paul-André met a few times with the MPPs for Nickel Belt, **France Gélinas**, and for Sudbury, Jamie West. For example, discussions regarding protecting further elderlies living at home; opioid crisis, etc.
 - We had one meeting on December 14, 2020 with our 2 MPPs on Zoom chat – Queen’s Park-on-the-Road. Issues of Northern Ontario may look similar from the ones in Southern Ontario, but they are differences; so, decisions or solutions need to be adapted. For example, opioid crisis, vaccination, Covid-19.
- Also, we support RNAO’s Action Alerts.



OTHER:

- We submitted our financial report 2019-2020. It was provided to Nancy Campbell, Director of Finances at home office, fulfilling RNAO's requirement.
- Paul-André (President) attended the RNAO Assembly meeting & Interest Groups meeting on November 6-7, 2020, via Zoom meeting.
- Paul-André (President) and Christopher (Political action ENO) attended the Day at Queen's Park on Zoom on Feb. 25th, 2021. Ruth, ENO and Past-President, joined us.
- Paul-André continues as Chair of the Sudbury-Manitoulin Ethics Network (**SMEN**) – clinical ethics.
- Our executive members are involved in discussions. And we are using Zoom for executive meetings.
- We prepared a resolution to be submitted to the RNAO's AGM in June 2021. It was accepted by our membership. <https://myrnao.ca/survey/145097>
- In December 2020, the President and other ENO members participated in the review of the LGBTQ2S+ BPG that is being developed by RNAO. It is "coming out" in the Summer of 2021 !
- From December 2020 to February 2021, our Executive reviewed the RNAO's Position Statement on the LGBTQ2S+ and the need to be "sensitive" to our community in 2021. We are aware that it may change over time.

Number of **Executive meetings** from September 2020 – February 2021: 3 (Feb. 2, 2021 & Dec. 10. and Sept. 28, 2020).

Number of **emails** shared with our membership from September 2020 – February 2021: 6

Newsletters:

- Newsletter – October 2020 (<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2020-10/RNIG-newsletter-October-2020.pdf>)
- Newsletter- March 2021 (<https://chapters-igs.rnao.ca/sites/default/files/2021-03/RNIG-Rainbow-Newsletter-March-2021-.pdf>)