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EDITOR'S NOTE KIMBERLEY KEARSEY

Anyone thirsty?

ONTARIO'S NEW PROVINCIAL CHIEF Nursing Officer Debra Bournes recently spoke to RNAO's board of directors and a group of nursing students attending the September meeting in Toronto. In his introduction of Bournes, President David McNeil noted that for those who were not aware, Bournes was the brains behind 80-20. Collectively, everyone nodded in unison, just as though a series of light bulbs suddenly went on. They may not have known the name Bournes (yet) but they were certainly aware of the initiative she spearheaded and its adoption by Toronto's University Health Network.

The concept is simple: RNs spend 80 per cent of their time in the nursing role they were hired to perform. The other 20 per cent is spent conducting research or participating in professional development such as mentoring a younger nurse. This novel initiative is the first of its kind in Canada, and one Bournes hopes will be implemented in other settings across the health-care system. Giving nurses the option to conduct research and to build on their professionalism is the best way to promote innovation in nursing and help retain nurses in the profession at the same time, she says.

As a journalist, I understand that passion for research that Bournes shares in our profile this issue (pg. 7). There's just something thrilling about exploring an issue you know

little about, and walking away with a brand new perspective on something that interests you. That's how participants of RNAO's Prevention of Elder Abuse Centres of Excellence (PEACE) project are feeling these days too (pg. 12). With their new-found knowledge of what constitutes abuse, many more nurses are responding to the needs of older Canadians who deserve exceptional care.

Nurses are naturally inquisitive, and by their nature always want to learn more about any number of issues. RNAO was relying on that thirst for knowledge during the 2011 provincial election, urging members to read the association's platform comparison and survey of politicians before heading to the polls (pg. 24). The election may be over, but that thirst for knowledge isn't going anywhere.

As you read this issue of the *Journal*, I hope you gain a new perspective on something that interests you. If it's not the provincial election or elder abuse, perhaps it's a better understanding of the association's interest groups (pg. 18), enlightenment about bullying in the workplace (pg. 17), or an appreciation for health care in the developing world (pg. 26). Whichever it may be, drink it up, and be sure to come back for another serving in a couple of months. **RN**

