

MAILBAG

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AND OPINIONS ON WHAT YOU'VE READ
OR WANT TO READ IN RNJ.
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Debate rages over wind power

Re: Out with coal, in with renewable energy, Nursing in the News, September/October 2011

We were disappointed to read of nurse practitioner Lel Morrison's wholehearted endorsement of wind power when the fact is, wind power projects are causing problems due to the environmental noise they produce. Morrison references a report that is quite out of date. We refer readers instead to the findings of the Environmental Review Tribunal (July 2011) which, after hearing evidence from more than 20 experts, determined: "This case has successfully shown that the debate should not be simplified to one about whether wind turbines can cause harm to humans. The evidence presented to the Tribunal demonstrates that they can, if facilities are placed too close to residents. The debate has now evolved to one of degree." Last year, a report prepared for the corporate wind industry suggested it recruit health professions and environmental groups to serve as "third party validators" for the industrial wind industry. We implore nurses to look deeper into this issue. There is much the wind industry is not telling you.

Debbie Shubat,
St. Joseph's Island, Ontario
Jane Wilson,
North Gower, Ottawa

EDITOR'S RESPONSE

RNAO believes wind energy, when appropriately cited, is one of several viable, renewable alternatives to coal and nuclear. The board of directors re-affirmed its support at its September board meeting.

Former RNAO president remembered

Re: RNs mark the passing of a true leader, September/October 2011

A few years ago, Joan Lesmond came to Kingston as the guest speaker for our annual RNAO dinner. I was asked to say the grace before the meal. I took this very seriously and was honoured to do my share

for the evening's event. When Joan got up to speak, she mentioned that the grace I said was sensitive and meaningful. She went on to say that she had never thought to comment on grace ever before. I was pleased that my thoughts reached her. I'll always remember Joan for her appreciation and thoughtfulness, and her sense of being authentic.

Kathy Coulson
Kingston, Ontario

I would like to first mention how proud I am to be a member of this organization. I was, however, very disappointed after reading the fall edition of the magazine, as I felt that Joan Lesmond's tribute could

have been better. As a previous president of RNAO, her picture should have been on the front page and her story given greater detail.

Marcia Fisher
Concord, Ontario

To help or to hurt

Re: The complexities of workplace bullying, Legal Column, September/October 2011

I loved the article on bullying in the workplace. I deal with this quite a bit when I do conflict resolution and mediation. It is sad that bullying takes place in a "helping" profession.

Linda Gravelle
Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

OBITUARY

Dorothy Hall

August 1924–November 2011

Dorothy Hall, honorary RNAO life member and Ontario's first provincial chief nursing officer, passed away on November 11 in Palmerston, Ontario. The 87-year-old was best remembered for leading the charge to reintroduce the role of nurse practitioner into Ontario's health-care system in the early 90s. Today, Ontario's 1,900 NPs have the authority to diagnose, prescribe drugs, order most tests and as of July can now discharge patients from hospital. "Almost everything she envisioned came to fruition," says Theresa Agnew, past president of the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario.

Hall graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1947. She began her career running Red Cross hospitals and clinics in remote Ontario outposts such as Dryden, Lion's Head and Rainy River. She delivered babies and

provided emergency care on her own. Hall joined the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1950. She was first stationed in Thailand, then New Delhi, then Europe. She returned to Canada in the mid-1970s, and began to focus on maternal health and midwifery. In 1993, at the request of Ontario's NDP government, Hall became Ontario's first provincial chief nursing officer. "She was extremely good at building coalitions," Kathleen MacMillan, a friend and former RNAO president, recalls. "The regulatory bodies, professional associations, unions and academics ... she pulled them all together and laid out the framework [for] educational requirements, policy structures and legislation. She made some decisions that didn't satisfy everybody, but because she was very pragmatic, she knew what was going to fly and what wouldn't."

Hall's proudest moment came in 2002, when McMaster University unveiled the \$1 million Dorothy C. Hall chair in primary-health-care nursing to focus on education and research. **RN**