

MAILBAG

RNAO WANTS TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ON WHAT YOU'VE READ OR WANT TO READ IN RNJ. WRITE TO LETTERS@RNAO.CA



Not all members agree with RNAO

Re: Combating gun violence, Jan/Feb 2013

I have spent three years on the Canadian National Small-bore Rifle Team, competing nationally and internationally. I am also a Canada Winter Games medalist. As a firearms owner, I absolutely believe in effective gun control, which covers a licensing system, regulations and screening process. However, I do not support a stance on gun control that defends wasting \$2 billion without benefit to the safety of society. The misconception that Canada's long-gun registry saved lives and helped the police has no supporting facts. Stronger gun control does not prevent gun crime. The Coalition for Gun Control, which has support from RNAO, does not understand this concept. It wastes its resources, time and money attempting to take firearms away from law-abiding citizens. Why am I painted with the same brush as criminals? Your article states "over 70 per cent of gun fatalities...are done with shotguns." My research with Statistics Canada shows it's fewer than 29 per cent. This is a far and embarrassing cry from the 70 per cent reported. Not all members of RNAO agree with its stance on this topic.

Chris Baldwin
First-year nursing student
Western University
Fanshawe College

Culture of safety starts with longer sentences

Re: Combating gun violence, Jan/Feb 2013

I just thumbed through my wife's latest *Journal* and want to share my humble opinion. Licensing and registering guns will not stop anyone from using a gun violently against another person. Whether or not the gun was registered made no difference in the death of Karen Vanscoy's daughter. It was improperly stored and, consequently, accessible. I hope the boy's father was brought up on charges for breaking the law. This article states "stronger

gun laws inform gun culture," and I agree 100 per cent. We have a minimum three-year prison sentence for the use of a gun in a crime. That is not enough. If someone uses a gun in the commission of a crime, they should get an automatic 10-year sentence with no exceptions. We need to be tough on the criminal use of guns across

the country and the world. As a licensed gun owner, I am on the side of Karen Vanscoy, and wish her much success in her ongoing efforts to create a culture of safety.

Dan Cashmore
Milton, Ontario

Students suffer most at the hands of bullies

Re: Bullying is alive and well in nursing, President's View, Nov/Dec 2012

Nursing students who are bullied the most are strong, individual thinkers who do not feel that the title of "student nurse" earns them a bullseye on their back. Those who try not

made up of autonomous, critical thinkers who are advocates for clients' needs and rights. Is the atmosphere in which we are educating the next generation of nurses supporting the development of quality nurses, or is it creating nurses who are duplications of their preceptors, advisors, instructors and peers with no autonomy or original thought of their own?

Brooke Simpson
Smiths Falls, Ontario

Nurses must support one another

Re: Full Scope Nursing in Primary Care, Nov/Dec 2012

This article suggests RNs who advocate for full scope of practice may encounter resistance from NPs. I find it distressing that NPs would be portrayed as unsupportive of our nursing colleagues. I would like to reinforce that all nurses must work to their full scope of practice to ensure the most effective and efficient care for all. This makes full use of our knowledge, skill and judgment, and is the cornerstone of the government's *Action Plan for Health Care*. Just as RNs supported the NP role, NPs will support the full integration of all nurses in all areas of the system. As full scope of practice is realized, we must clarify the role of NPs and RNs to avoid confusion for patients and other health-care professionals.

Claudia Mariano
Past President, NPAO

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