

NURSING NOTES



RN picks up award on behalf of team

RNAO member Sandra Dudziak said she was “extremely honoured” to accept an Ontario Long-Term Care Association (OLTCA) award in October for her work in skin and wound care at Revera Long-Term Care in Mississauga. The nurse practitioner, who is Revera’s national director of clinical services, said “it is not a one person award,” noting it takes a dedicated clinical team to provide wound care that is outcome driven rather than product driven. Dudziak accepted the award during Long-Term Care Week (Oct. 24–28).

Amendment restricts access to ‘quality’ information

Beginning in January 2012, Ontario hospitals will fall under the province’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). This means members of the public can request access to hospitals’ general records relating to operational functions, policy and financial considerations. In the spring of 2011, RNAO President-Elect Rhonda Seidman-Carlson appeared before a legislative committee to share the association’s view that the amended legislation constrains the public’s right to request information related to quality issues. More than 500 RNAO members wrote letters to

the Premier and MPPs to remind them that high quality care means transparency and accountability in health quality information. Ontario is the last province to include hospitals under freedom of information legislation. For information, visit www.ipc.on.ca.

Giving youth a voice

For seven weeks this past fall, RNAO member and public health nurse Nicole Szumlanski encouraged youth between the ages of 10 and 24 to take photos that examine healthy living issues, including mental health, physical activity and sexual health. Their photos were considered for a *Photovoice* contest, launched at Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox

and Addington Public Health Unit Oct. 11. Szumlanski said the contest gave youth a voice, and an opportunity to express how they view healthy or unhealthy situations. “It’s a unique way for them to explain their thoughts and feelings through their pictures,” she said. The initiative was organized by the Eastern Ontario Tobacco Control Area Network and six eastern Ontario public health agencies.

Work underway on the 2014 Canada Health Accord

In a presentation before the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on Oct. 19, former RNAO board member and Canadian Nurses Association

(CNA) President-Elect Barbara Milton recommended the government focus on two key areas in the lead-up to renegotiation of Canada’s *Health Accord* in 2014: a primary health-care system, and inter-professional teams. “A focus on primary health care contrasts with the way we have set up our system here in Canada currently,” Milton said. CNA Chief Executive Officer Rachel Bard was also present, saying Canada can do more to integrate RNs in a more responsive system of primary care. CNA’s presentation before the committee followed an RNAO resolution at CNA’s 2011 annual meeting that urged the national organization to lead in pushing for the immediate renegotiation of the *Accord*.

RNAO fights negative nursing images

Halloween has come and gone, but not without RNAO combating the recurring negative stereotypes of nurses that tend to emerge each fall. In October, CBC’s *Battle of the Blades* featured a figure skater in a skimpy nurse uniform skating alongside a man dressed as a ‘nerdy doctor.’ The association responded with a letter, condemning the inference that nurses are sexually available. Executive producers of the show apologized in a letter to RNAO within a few days. In an October episode of CBC’s radio program *Q*, host Jian Ghomeshi interviewed the managing editor of a women’s lifestyle website, who suggested women can wear whatever they want on Halloween — including sexy nurse costumes. RNAO responded on an online CBC discussion board, noting that while the program attempted to enlighten listeners, the guest missed an opportunity to change views about nurses as sex objects.