

NURSING NOTES

RN gets *Indspire* Award

Ruby Jacobs says she is thrilled to receive a 2013 *Indspire* Award. Formerly known as the *National Aboriginal Achievement Award*, it recognizes indigenous professionals and youth who demonstrate outstanding career achievement. Jacobs – who joined other honourees in Saskatoon in February – is credited with revolutionizing health care on Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation, near Brantford. As former director of health services, a position she held for 13 years, Jacobs led in the development of almost two dozen community health initiatives, all of which she says were born out of a community needs assessment in the early 90s. The number of health professionals for Six Nations has grown from just four when Jacobs began in 1994 to over 200 today, serving almost 24,000 band members. Her leadership has also resulted in expanded programs for long-term care, mental health, child health, social development, and sexual health. Jacobs' 48-year nursing career includes over two decades as a teacher. After retiring in 2007, she began serving as a board member on the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN. She maintains a connection with Six Nations by serving as president of its health foundation.



New and improved online gateway for new grads

Beginning this spring, the provincial government's *HealthForceOntario Jobs Portal* and its *Nursing Graduate Guarantee Management Module* will no longer exist. Instead, Ontario nursing graduates will have access to a new online resource called *HealthForceOntario Nurses' Career Start Gateway*. This improved website will connect new RNs and RPNs with health-care employers across Ontario interested in hiring through the *Nursing Graduate Guarantee Initiative* (NGGI), a program that, since 2007, has provided up to six months of comprehensive orientation for new grads, and the opportunity to work full time. Check out the new website, and access frequently asked questions and important dates, at www.healthforceontario.ca

Scholarship honours murdered RN

Nipissing University nursing student Crystal McLeod has received the first-ever *Sonia Varaschin Memorial Scholarship*, named after the 42-year-old registered nurse and RNAO member whose murder in July of 2010 remains unsolved. The scholarship, administered by the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario (RNFOO), offers \$1,000 to a third- or fourth-year nursing student who demonstrates leadership and a passion for healthy work environments. McLeod admits she did not realize the connection between the scholarship and the highly publicized death of the Orangeville RN almost three years ago. But the 22-year-old native of Port Elgin says she can relate to the sense of community grief associated with Varaschin's murder given her own experience growing up in a small town.

Varaschin's family and friends created the scholarship. It will be awarded annually through RNFOO.

RNAO awarded ICNP Centre designation

RNAO's best practice guidelines (BPG) program is expanding its global reach. In March, the association officially became one of only 11 organizations worldwide that can be called an accredited International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP) Research and Development Centre. The distinction, awarded by the International Council of Nurses (ICN), recognizes RNAO's partnership with ICN to expand its international nursing language, used to communicate the care that nurses provide, regardless of the country or continent. By collaborating with ICN to describe RNAO's BPG recommendations using this standardized language, and disseminating these

recommendations as nursing order sets, it allows nurses in Ontario, Singapore or California who use these evidence-based order sets, to record the care they provide in a consistent manner. This will help researchers to create concrete knowledge of just how nurses are having an impact on patient outcomes by using RNAO BPGs. Designation as an ICNP Centre brings Ontario on board with organizations in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Iran, Korea, Poland, Portugal and Minnesota. To find out more about nursing order sets, email BNOS@RNAO.ca. **RN**

Do you have nursing news to share? Email us at editor@RNAO.ca