

# NURSING WEEK 2011

NURSING: THE HEALTH OF OUR NATION MAY 9-15

## Statement to the Legislature

By The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister Of Health and Long-Term Care

"Mr. Speaker, this is Nursing Week in Ontario. And May 12th is International Nurses Day. It's a wonderful opportunity to recognize nurses for their commitment, knowledge and compassion, and thank them for their relentless determination to improve our health-care system and — more importantly — the health of Ontarians. Nursing Week really is something to celebrate. And there's no better place to celebrate than in Ontario. If you understand health care and are committed to building the best possible health-care system, you know that you simply can't do it without nurses.

As we celebrate Nursing Week, my message to nurses is this: Ontario needs you. And this government is committed to support you at every stage of your career — no matter the setting in which you work. I know from my own personal experience with the health-care system as a daughter, mother and grandmother that nurses are vital to Ontario's health-care system. And I also know that other Ontario families can count on nurses' expertise, caring and diligence. For all that they do on behalf of Ontarians, I can't thank nurses enough."

## Scarborough nurses give Premier, MPP an up-close look at what they do

On May 11, Premier Dalton McGuinty and Liberal MPP Gerry Phillips participated in RNAO's annual *Take Your MPP to Work* event in honour of Nursing Week. The pair visited with nurses at The Scarborough Hospital (Birchmount Site) for a tour of the maternity and intensive care units.



**Above:** Premier McGuinty (right) and Phillips visit the maternity ward to find out first-hand how family physician Vasima Ali (left) and RNs Kirsi Mynttinen (centre) and Sandra Newman (right) work together to bring thousands of new lives into the world each year.

**Left:** Pat Tamlin, interim patient care manager in the ICU at The Scarborough Hospital (Birchmount Site) (left), tells (L to R) Premier Dalton McGuinty, RNAO President-Elect Rhonda Seidman-Carlson and Liberal MPP Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt) about the unit's history with SARS, including the fact that she worked in ICU during that time and was admitted with the respiratory illness.

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(1) Sudbury Mayor Marianne Matichuk (seated), officially proclaimed Nursing Week in the City of Greater Sudbury. Joining her (L to R) were Paul-André Gauthier, RNAO's Region 11 representative on the Board of Directors, Bernadette Denis, Local Coordinator, Region 1, Local 002, Ontario Nurses' Association, Nicole Shank, Co-Chair of the Sudbury chapter's Nursing Week committee, and Maria Casas, co-president of the Sudbury chapter.

(2) RNAO President David McNeil (centre) joined members of the association's Lakehead chapter in Thunder

Bay for a Nursing Week Gala at Lakehead University. Local executive, including Carine Gallagher (left) and Pat Sevean presented him with an Amethyst Inukshuk in appreciation of his visit.

(3) Muskoka Landing Long-Term Care Home in Huntsville chose Nursing Week to recognize staff members for their spirit in leadership and excellence. The idea to offer awards was inspired by RN Janice Launchbury, who wanted to encourage her peers. The first two award recipients of the week were RPN Ashley Bouchard (right) and personal support worker Helen Aldred.

(4) During Nursing Week, RNAO hosted media conferences in Toronto, Thunder Bay and Cambridge to raise awareness of best practice guidelines (BPG) and the link between nursing excellence and quality patient care. In Toronto, RNs Ruby Gorospe (left) and Kerry Ann Caissie were invited to speak about how they use BPGs in their practice at St. Michael's hospital.

(5) Mental health RPN Madge Reece (centre, in purple) is the winner of the 2011 *Toronto Star* Nightingale Award. She joined the competition's other 'honourable mentions' to accept her

award at RNAO's Career Expo in Toronto May 13. From left to right: Julie Constantin, oncology nurse and honourable mention; Beth McCracken, RPNAO; Deb Houghting, Chair of the Nightingale Awards; Irmajean Bajnok, Director of RNAO's IABPG program; Reece; Mona Desroches, palliative care nurse and honourable mention; Dan Parmigiano, transitional care nurse and honourable mention; and Colleen Lipskie, RN and senior policy analyst with the Ministry of Health's Nursing Secretariat.



## MPP visits across the province

(Right) Minister of Health Deb Matthews (right) meets (L to R) Irene Ngu, Ashley Harvey, Carmen Lin, Andra Clayton and Carrie D'Entremont during her visit to The Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids) in Toronto on May 9. She talked to them about their roles in nephrology, multi-organ transplant, gastroenterology and nutrition.

(Below) NDP Leader Andrea Horwath (standing, third from right) visited Regent Park Community Health Centre on May 11. She received an overview of the programs and services the centre provides for new immigrants, the homeless, and individuals with mental illness. These include diabetes and hepatitis C education and treatment; a harm reduction clinic; the pathways to education program; child and parenting programs; and dental care.

(Bottom right) Saint Elizabeth hosted a home visit with Christine Elliott, Conservative MPP for Whitby (right), on May 12. RN Nancy Lefebvre, Saint Elizabeth Senior VP (left), introduced Elliott to RN Sandy Chou (second from left) and her young patient Stephanie Clayton. Mom Denise Clayton (second from right) talked about her daughter's experience with the health-care system.



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During his Nursing Week visit to the emergency department at York Central Hospital on May 11, Richmond Hill Liberal MPP Reza Moridi gets a lesson on how to take a patient's temperature from nurse educator Palma Casciato-Hulbig (right).



On May 12, Nickel Belt NDP MPP France G elinas (left) and MP Claude Gravelle (right) toured Villa St. Gabriel Villa, Sudbury's newest long-term care home. The site's administrator Gloria Richer (centre) introduced them to nurses, residents, family members and staff. In addition to seeing direct patient care, the pair discussed career opportunities within the sector, staff/resident ratios, and student activity.



Leeds-Grenville Conservative MPP Steve Clark visited the Community and Primary Care-Community Family Health Team in Brockville on May 13 to chat with RNs Cate Thake (centre) and Emmy Hart about their role on the team. He praised RNs for their "tireless" work, noting that "nursing isn't just a job, it's a calling."