

NURSING NOTES



Karima Velji

PHOTO: TEKLES PHOTOGRAPHY INC.

Two Ontario RNs take centre stage at national convention

RNAO member Karima Velji was officially installed as the 46th president of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) during its biennial convention in Winnipeg in June. "I want to inspire my fellow nurses to realize the powerful difference we are making in the lives of those we serve," she said about taking on the role, "...so we can safeguard the exceptional trust Canadians place in us."

Until 2013, Velji was chief operating officer and chief nursing

executive at Toronto's Baycrest, a leader in innovations on aging and brain health. Before that, she was VP, patient care, and chief nursing executive at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute.

Another RNAO member, Bonnie Stevens, was recognized with an *Order of Merit* for exceptional leadership in nursing research at the CNA convention. Stevens is recognized as a world expert for research on the assessment and management of pain in infants and children.

She directs the University of Toronto's (U of T) Centre for the Study of Pain, and co-directs the Centre for Pain Management Research and Education at the Hospital for Sick Children. For 13 years, Stevens has held the Signy Hildur Eaton Chair in Paediatric Nursing Research, the first endowed chair of its kind in Canada. She earned her bachelor of nursing from McMaster University, her master of science in nursing from U of T, and her doctorate from McGill University.

Recommendations to prevent elder abuse released

On June 13, RNAO unveiled more than 20 recommendations aimed at helping nurses and other health-care providers prevent and speak out about elder abuse and the neglect of older adults. The recommendations were revealed ahead of the official unveiling of the association's latest BPG, *Preventing and Addressing Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults: Person-Centred, Collaborative, System-Wide Approaches*.

RNAO wants all health-care providers to consider the rights of older adults when it comes to

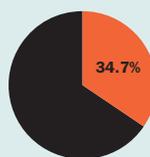
lifestyle/care decisions before determining interventions and supports. Doing this could mean a decrease in instances of physical trauma, feelings of low self worth and dignity, a lost sense of safety and security, and even an increased risk of early death for those at risk. Other key recommendations speak to mandatory education for anyone serving older adults. That education would focus on ageism, the rights of older adults and the types, prevalence and signs of abuse and neglect, factors that may contribute to abuse and neglect, and individual roles and responsibilities with regard to responding to and reporting abuse or neglect.

"We hope RNAO's BPG will be adopted by all health-care organizations and individual providers to help put an end to what can only be described as a horrifying and hugely troublesome trend," RNAO CEO Doris Grinspun says.

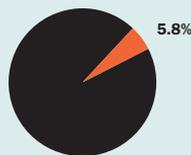
Visit www.RNAO.ca/elderabusebpg to access the BPG, set for release in the summer of 2014.

CIHI nursing data released

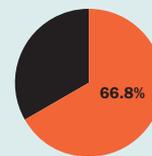
In early July, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released its latest national nursing numbers. Some of the noteworthy findings:



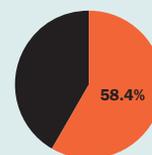
Ontario's share of total RN employment dropped from 35.4 per cent in 2009 to 34.7 per cent in 2013.



The male share of the RN workforce rose modestly to 5.8 per cent between 2009 and 2013. Ontario lags behind the national number, which rose to 7.1 per cent.



Ontario's full-time employment ratio increased from 65.6 per cent in 2009 to 68.6 per cent in 2012. It then dropped in 2013 to 66.8 per cent.



Across Canada, **the full-time employment average** was 58.4 per cent in 2013.

The full report is available at www.CIHI.ca

In memoriam
RNAO EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Christine Kent, who lost her battle with breast cancer on July 13. Christine was an active member of RNAO's Region 10, and was membership officer for the Staff Nurse Interest Group.