

POLICY AT WORK

What will Ontario's health system look like in the future?

A snapshot of the future was unveiled at Queen's Park on April 30, during a media conference organized by RNAO. For the past two years, board members and staff have been working on a comprehensive look at what the nursing profession and the province's health system should look like by 2030. *Charting a course for the health system and nursing in Ontario* examines every aspect of the health system, from how care is delivered, to who delivers it, and where.

There are recommendations for the five largest sectors in the system: public health; primary care; hospital care; home care; and rehab, complex care and long-term care. The vision emphasizes a shift from the current model, which is largely focused on illness care, to one where greater attention is given to health promotion, disease prevention and managing chronic conditions.

Understanding that change cannot happen overnight, RNAO's blueprint contains recommendations that can be implemented immediately, others within the next five years, and some in the longer term. There are two versions of this vision. One is aimed at members of the public. The other lists concrete recommendations and is aimed at politicians and policy makers.

Interested in learning more about RNAO's blueprint for the future? Check out www.vision.RNAO.ca



(L to R) RNAO CEO Doris Grinspun, Immediate Past-President Rhonda Seidman-Carlson, and President Vanessa Burkoski host a media conference in late April to unveil the association's vision for the future of health care.

Take your politician to work

In early May, when Kathleen Wynne called the election, RNAO decided to take a different approach to one of its key Nursing Week political events. For the past 14 years, members have invited politicians to visit their workplaces to experience first-hand the satisfaction and the challenges of delivering health care in various practice settings.

Since politicians running for re-election are technically not members of provincial parliament (MPP) until they are re-elected, RNAO re-branded the association's longstanding *Take Your MPP to Work* event as *Take Your Politician to Work*. Invitations were sent to all four major parties. Over 45 visits had been organized by the end of May, with more expected.

See page 23 for photos of Nursing Week events, and visit RNAO on Facebook for more.

Health policy resolutions for CNA to consider

When RNAO President Vanessa Burkoski and CEO Doris Grinspun head to Winnipeg this June, they will be armed with three health policy resolutions to be tabled during the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) annual general meeting (AGM). One resolution requests that CNA advocate against initiatives that market Canada as a destination for medical tourism. In recent years, a number of health-care organizations have entered into lucrative partnerships with other countries, exchanging access to care for money (see page 6). The resolution shows how medical tourism threatens the sustainability of the country's universally accessible and publicly funded system.

RNAO is also asking CNA to take action to prevent new, for-profit plasma collection centres from setting up in Canada. In November 2012,

a company called Canadian Plasma Resources submitted an application to Health Canada to operate several pay-for-plasma clinics in Ontario. Concern about the safety of the blood supply goes back decades, when thousands of Canadians became infected with HIV and Hepatitis C due to blood and plasma that wasn't properly screened from paid donors. Justice Horace Krever led a public inquiry, and recommended blood be considered a public resource, and that donors not be paid. Ontario introduced legislation to ban such payments, but the bill was not passed before the election was called.

A third resolution urges CNA to join with other civil society groups to oppose the federal government's *Fair Elections Act*. RNAO believes the act diminishes the authority of the country's chief electoral officer, restricts basic voting rights, and expands the influence of those who make private donations to parties. **RN**