



Nurses' Notes

March 2009

Newsletter of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As always there are many things happening at YRNA so I will try to give you the highlights and hopefully not leave out anything important.

As I reported in the last newsletter, Patricia and I met with Health Minister Glenn Hart back in November. We discussed the Yukon Health Care Review which was initiated on the request of the Premier. We were informed that there would be a committee formed to do further consultation on the recommendations from the Review. We anticipate it may be quite a time commitment for this committee but it promises to be quite interesting at the same time. Unfortunately, my schedule didn't permit me to be part of this team as the YRNA representative. Colleen Wirth has graciously accepted our invitation to be our representative on this committee and I extend my appreciation to Colleen for stepping forward.

The nurse practitioner legislation work is still trudging along. The process has been long and sometimes arduous and our staff continues to do an incredible

amount of work. They have worked tirelessly on this issue for more than two years now and have put in endless hours, not to mention blood, sweat and tears. A big *thank you* goes out to them for all their effort. We'll keep you updated as things, hopefully, progress.

We have the honour of having had one of our own members travel to China as part of a Canadian nursing delegation. Heather Johnson has a presentation she would like to deliver at an upcoming Coffee Talk which is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 pm in the YRNA office. Come out and join us for Chinese tea and snacks. Learn some fascinating facts about health care in China and see some great photos.

To my very great disappointment I was unable to attend the nursing leadership conference in Toronto this year due to unforeseen work commitments. Several of our members were able to attend though and I look forward to hearing from them on their return. Sounds like a great idea for another Coffee Talk!

Peggy Heynen, RN

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... and more

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE YRNA BOARD

RE: Phase II Consultation on the Registered Nurses Profession Act

THIS CONSULTATION (see *Executive Director's Report, p.3*) HAS ALREADY BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES WITH A DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK OF 4:00 MARCH 5th.

We encourage all members to review the draft legislation and provide feedback prior to the deadline if time permits. Documents are available at www.hss.gov.yk.ca. Your association Board has taken concerns forward to government about the proposed authority over the Scope of Practice for nurse practitioners (Section 13 of the draft), and the implications for the ability of Yukon registered nurses to self-regulate. Call YRNA at 867-667-4062 if you would like more information.

National Nursing Week

National Nursing Week 2009 will be celebrated from May 11-17. The theme this year is '*Nursing—You Can't Live Without It!*'

If you and your colleagues plan to organize events in your workplace in recognition of National Nursing Week, let YRNA know. We don't have the capacity to organize a NNW presence in the territory but we would be happy to tell people what you've done!

Thank You!

The Board and staff of YRNA would like to say a big THANK YOU to the members of the Nursing Practice Committee for the work they have done in preparing the continuing competence trial package that was sent out with all registration renewal packages. This committee will continue to be busy as the Continuing Competence program is further developed and finalized. The commitment of time, energy and passion from this committee is appreciated!

Yukon RNs

April 1, 2009 is the day that you must be registered for the new registration year.

Without a 2009/2010 Active Practising license you cannot work as an RN.

If you have already renewed your registration, *thank you*.

If you have not renewed, please note:

- all 2008/09 registrations expire on March 31st
- you will be in violation of the Registered Nurse Profession Act if you work without current licensure
- a late fee applies to all Active Practising renewal applications received after March 31st

Can't find your renewal form? You can print a 2009/2010 registration form from our website at www.yrna.ca (go to Nursing Practice > Registration forms).

Please note: Registration renewal cannot be processed without your original signed form accompanied by fee payment in the form of cheque, money order or cash. We cannot process credit or debit cards.

If you sent in your renewal form and have not yet received your 2009/2010 card by late March, please call the YRNA office at 867-667-4062 to ensure your registration has been renewed.

Continuing competence is here to stay!



Give us your feedback today!

www.yrna.ca

Check us out!

The YRNA newsletter is published four times a year. Publication dates are February 28th, May 31st, August 31st and November 30th. Deadline for submissions is the 1st day of the month of publication.

Articles and letters are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor. Inclusion of items in the newsletter does not imply endorsement or approval by the YRNA.

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YRNA BOARD MEMBERS

President	Peggy Heynen
Past President	Paula Bilton
Secretary	Antonia Manolis
Treasurer	Andrea Mainer
Members-at-Large:	Maureen Crill
	Diane Kirchgatter
	Susanne Nageli
Public Representative:	Genevieve Clark

If you would like to receive e-mail notification of YRNA events (Coffee Talks, etc.) please let YRNA know: admin@yrna.ca.

Participating in the Development of Healthy Public Policy

Within the near future, two important public consultations will take place which I encourage you to participate in.

One component in YRNA's Mission Statement is participation in the development of healthy public policy. This speaks directly to registered nurses' role in contributing to public debate. However, as I looked at the whole Mission Statement, I see that all four components apply to both of the upcoming consultations.

YRNA's Mission Statement reads:
As a self-regulating profession, registered nurses of Yukon collectively and as individuals protect the public interest by:

- advancing nursing excellence
- providing leadership
- participating in the development of healthy public policy
- providing information on roles and responsibilities to the public and to colleagues

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO RN PROFESSION ACT

First off the ground for active participation, we hope, will be the public consultation on amendments to the *Registered Nurses Profession Act*. In fact, it may be underway as this newsletter comes out. As Peggy has mentioned in her message, and as most of you know, this has been a lengthy process. Legislative amendment to the extent that we are now undergoing is a complicated business and necessitates trying to look ahead to what the future will hold so that we don't box ourselves in to something in our Act which we will not be able to practically fulfill.

Last summer you would all have received in the mail a consultation paper on the proposed changes. If you

replied and indicated that you wished to be consulted in phase two, you will receive notification that the second consultation is underway. If you do not fall into this category, and wish to participate, please keep an eye on the Yukon Government website (www.hss.gov.yk.ca) where information about the phase two consultation will be posted. We will also try to post a link to the consultation in the *What's New* section of the YRNA website.

to its Final Report which was released in November.

The government has decided to do a comprehensive consultation on the recommendations and has asked for participation from YRNA. We have nominated Colleen Wirth to the steering committee which will conduct the consultation.

Most of YRNA's concepts were captured in the November report, in-

“After all, registered nurses are in a unique position to understand the complex issues surrounding health care and we have some sensible and creative ideas to offer.”

One of the issues that has taken a lot of deliberation as we have worked on this project, has been finding the right balance between YRNA's self-regulatory status in the interest of public safety and the government's responsibility for guardianship of the public interest in health care matters. The Board and staff at YRNA are still working to reach a common understanding with government on this.

Please take time to look at the proposed amendments. If you have any questions, concerns or clarifications, you can contact us for more information.

YUKON HEALTH CARE REVIEW

The second consultation is a follow-up to the Yukon Health Care Review which the territorial government conducted last summer.

YRNA made a presentation to the committee conducting the Review and had an opportunity to respond

cluding recommendations on more creative health delivery models; inter-professional collaborative practice; and the integration of nurse practitioners.

The report also suggested that the government should consider a number of changes to health benefits, some of which would result in users paying more for certain services and programs. The government has indicated that it is not supportive of moving in that direction.

There will be four different forums for participation: community meetings; filling in a questionnaire which will be delivered to all Yukon homes; a website survey; and stakeholder meetings. I hope as many of you as possible will use one of these methods to provide your input. After all, registered nurses are in a unique position to understand the complex issues surrounding health care and we have some sensible and creative ideas to offer.

C hina Presentation — — A C offee T alk



**L ast N overber, local RN
H eather J ohnson went to
C hina on a professional and
cultural exchange with a delegation
of C anadian nurses.**



**H eather will give a presentation with photos
from her trip at a C offee T alk to be held on
T uesday, M arch 31 st at 7:00
in the Y R N A office.**



**A ll members are invited to
attend this presentation.**

New YRNA Honourary Member

It is with great pleasure that the Board announces a new Honourary Member of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association.

Honourary membership has been awarded to **Irene Sova** in recognition of her 32 years at Whitehorse Health Centre, her positive support and mentorship of many staff during that time and the valuable work she has done to document and preserve the history of nurses in the north.

Honourary Membership is the highest honour which can be conferred on an individual by YRNA. Irene was nominated for this award by Ann Chapman and the nomination was supported by other nurses who have had the privilege of working with Irene over the years.

A formal presentation will be made to Irene at a future date.

Continuing Competence Process: HELP IS ON THE WAY!!

The YRNA Nursing Practice Committee has received feedback that members are looking for guidance as they review and navigate the new Continuing Competence Process booklet. We appreciate those who took time to bring this request forward, and we look forward to providing assistance.

The committee is preparing a workshop, designed to guide members through use of the tool. We are happy to take this workshop into workplaces, or to have members gather at the YRNA office.

For nurses throughout Yukon communities, we are eager to connect via videoconference wherever there is interest.

Posters will be sent to workplaces to remind you of this opportunity. Please contact YRNA at 867-667-4062, or email to admin@yrna.ca to arrange a workshop.

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Nomination Committee Report

In accordance with Bylaw 25 (2) (a) of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, a call for nominations went out to members in the November 2008 newsletter for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large (Rural). Deadline for nominations was February 1st, 2008.

One nomination was received for Secretary. Antonia Manolis has acknowledged and accepted this nomination, and has therefore been acclaimed to the position. This will be her second term.

One nomination was received for Member-at-large (Rural). Diane Kirchgatter has acknowledged and accepted this nomination, and has therefore been acclaimed to the position. This will be her second term.

There were no nominations received for the position of President-Elect. Therefore, according to Bylaw 10 (10), this position may be filled by nomination and election at the Annual General Meeting.

Peggy Heynen, our current President, has indicated that she is interested in serving a second term as President. On examination of Bylaws and the succession process we have in place, this would be possible. In this case, Peggy would continue to serve in her first term as President, and then start a new two year term in the spring of 2010. As a result, the President-Elect position would not need to be filled this year and would next become open in 2011.

Respectfully submitted:
Yvette Berquist, RN
Lynne Harris, RN

Notice of Proposed Bylaw Change

The following Bylaw change related to 'Duties of Board Members' will be presented for membership approval at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Current Wording:

7(2) The President shall:

- (a) *preside at all meetings of the Association;*
- (b) *exercise general control and supervision of the affairs of the Association and be the official representative of the Association;*
- (c) *sit as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominations Committee;*
- (d) *not be eligible to be elected to the office of President-Elect.*

Proposed Change and Rationale

Remove clause (d) as it is not logical to have election of Board member items in the **Duties of Board Members** section. It also causes confusion related to clause 6(5) under **Term of Office** which states: *No member of the Board, except the Executive Director, shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.* This implies that all elected Board members may serve two terms.

Proposed new Wording

7(2) The President shall:

- (a) *preside at all meetings of the Association;*
- (b) *exercise general control and supervision of the affairs of the Association and be the official representative of the Association;*
- (c) *sit as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominations Committee*



2009 Annual General Meeting

April 24-25

Social Evening

Friday, April 24th
7:00—9:00 pm

Wine, Cheese & Conversation
including a presentation by
June Webber,
CNA Director of International
Policy & Development

Business Meeting

Saturday, April 25th
8:30 am — 12:00

Annual Reports
Election of Officers
Address by Kaaren Neufeld,
CNA President

Education Session

Saturday, April 25th
1:00 — 4:30 pm

ETHICS IN NURSING
An interactive exploration
of individual and organizational
ethics in nursing practice
facilitated by Kaaren Neufeld.

Join your colleagues for an evening and a day of discussion, education and social-

RSVP appreciated but not required—667-4062



Ever had that 'sinking' feeling? Professional accountability can ease that weight as we move forward and learn from our experiences.

Circumpolar Health Conference

The next **International Congress on circumpolar Health (ICCH)** will be held in Yellowknife from July 11-16, 2009. This congress occurs every 3 years and is organized by the International Union for Circumpolar Health (website: www.iuch.org) in conjunction with the member society of the host country—in this case, the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health.

The 2009 ICCH will focus on the Legacy of International Polar Year for Health Research and Action in the Circumpolar World. Sessions will include, but not be limited to: Indigenous Knowledge; Mental and Cultural Health and Resilience; Healthy Communities; Infectious and Chronic Diseases; Nutrition and Food Security; Child Health; Health of the Elderly; International Health Surveys; Health Effects of Climate Change; Health Anthropology; Arctic Contaminants and Health; and many more.

The deadline for early registration for this conference is March 31, 2009. Members of the Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health (CSCH) receive a discounted registration fee. Membership forms may be downloaded from the website at www.csch.ca. CSCH Membership also includes a free subscription to the International Journal of Circumpolar Health which is the world's leading journal on health issues in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Take time for valuable reflection on your nursing practice.



Exploring Our Code of Ethics

Part 2 in a series of articles which will look at the Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses.

In 2008, YRNA endorsed and adopted the newly revised CNA *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses*, making it a foundational element governing nursing practice in the Yukon. To help members integrate this important document into practice, we are reprinting the Code in sections along with discussion questions to guide reflection on each segment. The Code Preamble was printed in the last newsletter. In this edition, the first element of Part 1 is reprinted. As you read through this section, you might ask yourself:

- Can you identify practice concerns you have encountered for which this section of the Code could provide guidance?
- If so, how could your familiarity with the Code help you find solutions?
- How are adverse events addressed in your workplace; are the processes used aligned with the Code? What is the response when an error in care is reported?
- Have you ever been aware that another health professional made an error and did not report it to minimize potential harm? Did you feel you could act? What are the implications of a decision to act/not act? Does the content of this section provide meaningful support for a nurse faced with this decision?

PART I: NURSING VALUES AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Nurses in all domains of practice bear the ethical responsibilities identified under each of the seven primary nursing values.⁶ These responsibilities apply to nurses' interactions with individuals, families, groups, populations, communities and society as well as with students, colleagues and other health-care professionals. The responsibilities are intended to help nurses apply the code. They also serve to articulate nursing values to employers, other health-care professionals and the public. Nurses help their colleagues implement the code, and they ensure that student nurses are acquainted with the code.

A. PROVIDING SAFE, COMPASSIONATE, COMPETENT AND ETHICAL CARE

Nurses provide safe, compassionate, competent and ethical care.

Ethical responsibilities:

1. Nurses have a responsibility to conduct themselves according to the ethical responsibilities outlined in this document and in practice standards in what they do and how they interact with persons receiving care as well as with families, communities, groups, populations and other members of the **health-care team**.
2. Nurses engage in compassionate care through their speech and body language and through their efforts to understand and care about others' health-care needs.
3. Nurses build trustworthy relationships as the foundation of meaningful communication, recognizing that building these relationships involves a conscious effort. Such relationships are critical to understanding people's needs and concerns.
4. Nurses question and intervene to address unsafe, non-compassionate, unethical or incompetent practice or conditions that interfere with their ability to provide safe, compassionate, competent and ethical care to those to whom they are providing care, and they support those who do the same. See Appendix D.
5. Nurses admit mistakes⁷ and take all necessary actions to prevent or minimize harm arising from an adverse event. They work with others to reduce the potential for future risks and preventable harms. See Appendix D.
6. When resources are not available to provide ideal care, nurses collaborate with others to adjust priorities and minimize harm. Nurses keep persons receiving care, families and employers informed about potential and actual changes to delivery of care. They inform employers about potential threats to safety.
7. Nurses planning to take job action or practising in environments where job action occurs take steps to safeguard the health and safety of people during the course of the job action. See Appendix D.
8. During a natural or human-made disaster, including a communicable disease outbreak, nurses have a duty to provide care using appropriate safety precautions. See Appendix D.
9. Nurses support, use and engage in research and other activities that promote safe, competent, compassionate and ethical care, and they use guidelines for ethical research⁸ that are in keeping with nursing values.
10. Nurses work to prevent and minimize all forms of violence by anticipating and assessing the risk of violent situations and by collaborating with others to establish preventive measures. When violence cannot be anticipated or prevented, nurses take action to minimize risk to protect others and themselves.

⁶ The value and responsibility statements in the code are numbered and lettered for ease of use, not to indicate prioritization. The values are related and overlapping.

⁷ Provincial and territorial legislation and nursing practice standards may include further direction regarding requirements for disclosure and reporting.

⁸ See Ethical Research Guidelines for Registered Nurses (CNA, 2002) and the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, & Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 1998).

Reprinted with the permission of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). The CNA *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses* is available for download at www.cna-aic.ca.

Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group

6 BUCKS, BUY-A-NET, SAVE A LIFE

Buy-A-Net Malaria Prevention Group (BAN) is Canada's first citizen driven initiative aimed at saving lives from malaria. Founded in 2004 by Canadian RN Debra Lefebvre, BAN is endorsed by the Canadian Nurses Association.

Lefebvre advises, "The burden of malaria is crushing, exacting a significant loss of human life and huge economic toll on African nations. There are as many as 500 million malaria cases worldwide each year resulting in one to three million deaths annually. The disease traps individuals, families, communities and entire countries in a perpetual cycle of poverty. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable. Malaria kills more African children than any other disease; somewhere in Africa, a mother loses her child to malaria every 30 seconds."

Buy-A-Net is volunteer based and has the support and endorsement of countless Canadians. As a registered charitable organization, BAN raises the funds necessary to procure bed nets for distribution through community based partnerships.

BAN has been recognized by the Ugandan Government as the largest civilian-led malaria prevention organization in East Africa.

Lefebvre writes, "I am asking you to help us win this fight against malaria. I need your involvement to spur greater action and investment in combating the spread of malaria. We can work together to save lives. While the World Health Organization has indicated that bed nets are working and saving lives, and net use

has increased from 2% to 23% within the last few years, we still have a way to go to make malaria history. Children, families, men, women, students, and business all have a shared responsibility to make it happen."



Through BAN's advocacy and awareness efforts, World Malaria Day, April 25th, is now recognized by major Canadian cities coast-to-coast. BAN has a goal to secure 120,000 bed nets by World Malaria Day 2009.

For further information, to make a donation, or to learn about organizing a local Buy-A-Net campaign, contact the BAN office at 613-542-1264 or email buyanet@buyanet.ca.

Are you protected?
Every nurse should have professional liability protection.

1-800-267-3390 www.cnps.ca

Log in to the **Members Only** Section
Username: YRNA Password: assist

The Canadian Nurses Protective Society

INTRODUCING . . .

Two New National Nursing Organizations



Canadian Nurses Interested in Ethics



Canadian Nurses Interested in Ethics

Canadian Nurses Interested in Ethics (CNIE) is a relatively new CNA affiliate group. CNIE includes nurses from all regions of Canada and represents nurses working in clinical practice, education, research and policy development.

CNIE hopes to raise awareness of the everyday ethical issues that nurses encounter in their daily practice; to stimulate discussion among interested nurses regarding the moral distress they may experience in their place of work; and to highlight effective strategies that contribute to positive work environments and ultimately quality care for the individuals and communities we serve.

CNIE President Anne Simmonds invites all Yukon nurses to visit CNIE's website at www.cniethics.ca and to consider becoming part of this special interest group.

Canadian Association of Nurses for Women and Newborns

The Canadian Association of Nurses for Women and Newborns (Association infirmière canadienne pour femmes et nouveau-né) was born out of the need for a uniquely Canadian national body of nurses to serve women, newborns and their families. Comprised of nurses from all regions of Canada, this organization will provide leadership for Canadian perinatal and women's health issues.

The objectives of the association include: promoting exemplary standards in perinatal and women's health nursing practice, research and education; advocating for Canadian women, newborns and families in health matters; representing Canadian nurses in policy development within this specialty; providing continuing nursing educational opportunities; and representing nurses in multidisciplinary collaborative projects.

It is envisioned that CANWN will provide educational opportunities using video casting and on-line presentations as much possible. This method of communication will facilitate the participation of nurses across this vast country and provide a venue for involvement of nurses in rural and remote areas.

For more information, visit the new website at www.canwn-aicfnn.ca.



Registered Nurse Education Funds

Yukon registered nurses are reminded of the funding that is available to support them in ongoing educational endeavours—from participation in annual workshops and conferences to full length nursing-related programs. This funding is provided by the Yukon Department of Health & Social Services and administered by YRNA.

There are 5 funding deadlines throughout the year: January 31, March 31, May 31, August 31 and October 31. The Education Fund Management Committee meets to review applications and to review and revise funding guidelines and criteria.

The committee recently increased the 'travel/accommodation' maximum to \$4,000 per year from the previous limit of \$2000. In addition, the funding application form has been revised so that applications for both the Continuing Nurse Education Fund (CNEF) and the Nursing Specialty Education Fund (NSEF) will use the same form.

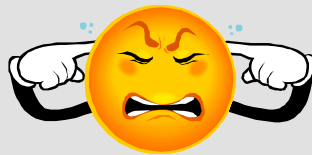
For more information about these education funds, check the YRNA website at www.yrna.ca or call the office at 867-667-4062.



RNs

**Has YRNA's new
CONTINUING COMPETENCE
PROCESS**

**left you feeling
Confused? Angry?
Perplexed?? Despondent???**



HELP IS ON THE WAY!



**YRNA's Nursing Practice
Committee**

**is willing— even eager— to provide
a workshop in your workplace
or at the YRNA office,
to guide you through the new process.**

**Call 867-667-4062
to let us know you are interested.**



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Brenda Stutsky

Director, Nursing Education, Health Sciences Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Canadian Nurses Association

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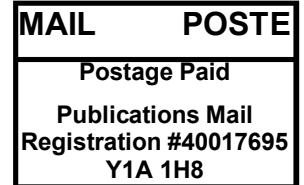
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YRNA, 204—4133—4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H8

Phone: 867-667-4062 Fax: 867-668-5123 e-mail: yrna@yknet.ca

Yukon Registered Nurses Association

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Phone: 867-667-4062 Fax: 867-668-5123
E-mail: admin@yrna.ca Web: www.yrna.ca



Coming Events . . .

- Mar 25-27, 2009 4th Annual BC Nurse Practitioner Conference. Contact: BCNP website.
- Mar 31, 2009 China Presentation—A Coffee Talk. Whitehorse. 7:00—YRNA Office. Phone: 867-667-4062.**
- April 1, 2009 First day of 2009 registration year—do you have your 2009/2010 Active Practising license?**
- April 20-23, 2009 Diabetes Educator Course. Offered by Barbara King Hooper in cooperation with UBC Interprofessional Continuing Education. Vancouver. Contact: www.interprofessional.ubc.ca; 1-877-328-7744.
- Apr 23-25, 2009 Canadian Respiratory Conference. *A Breath of Fresh Air*. Toronto. Contact: 613-747-0262; Fax 613-745-1846; general@taylorandassociates.ca
- Apr 24-25, 2009 YRNA Annual General Meeting. Friday evening, Saturday. High Country Inn. 867-667-4062.**
- Apr 26-29, 2009 32nd Annual Canadian Orthopaedic Nurses Association Conference. *A Medley of Orthopaedic Knowledge*. Kelowna, BC. Contact: Norma Stubbart 250-767-9648; registration@cona2009.ca
- May 27-30, 2009 15th National Conference on Gerontological Nursing. *Making Moments Matter*. Banff, AB. Contact: Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association.
- May 28-30, 2009 2009 Annual Conference for Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy (CAET). *Learn in the Land of Living Skies*. Regina. Contact: www.caet.ca
- Jun 5-6, 2009 5th Annual Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta. *Practice and Politics: Moving Forward in 2009*. Edmonton. Contact: NPAA website.
- Jun 17-19, 2009 3rd National Community Health Nurses Conference. *Blazing our Trails ... Tools, Tactics & Taking Charge*. Calgary. Contact www.chnac.ca or www.chnalberta.org.
- Jun 27-Jul 4, 2009 ICN 24th Quadrennial Congress. Durban, South Africa. Contact: www.icn.ch/congress2009.htm