



Volume 2013. No 1

February 2013

Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- 3 types of CNS Awards;
- AGM (Ontario):
 - ✓ Saturday, April 13th, 2013;
 - ✓ Hilton, downtown Toronto at 08:30 AM.
- NACNS Conference. :
 - ✓ March 7-9, 2013
 - ✓ San Antonio, Texas, USA.

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Message from the CNS President of Ontario

There are growing signs of renewed interest in the Clinical Nurse Specialist, as an advance practice nurse with graduate education in nursing. We have seen this in the increase in postings looking for a CNS. We are also seeing the valuing of having a CNS in a setting by the number of people being hired into the job category, even if they do not have graduate education in nursing. Researchers from McMaster University recently surveyed nurses identifying themselves as being in a CNS role, but excluded those who identify themselves as a CNS by education but may not be in a role with that title at the time of the survey. While important research, it is limited by that lens. Even so, it does give us some answers about what is happening.

This past summer the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing surveyed all 32 graduate programs in Canada. Of these, 31 participated in the survey. The survey

excluded Nurse Practitioner programs as these had been surveyed previously. The report was first presented at the November 13th (2012) meeting in Ottawa. It is now available on the CASN website.

Some programs confer a Master of Nursing, while others confer a Master of Science in Nursing on completion. Of the 20 programs offering specialization, 10 (50%) offer a generalist clinical practice/advance practice specialty. In addition, 6 (30%) offered specialization in specific areas such as aging, aboriginal health, cardiology, nephrology, mental health and critical care. Many offered multiple streams. A full third stated they were preparing Clinical Nurse Specialist. Unfortunately, the report does not specify which programs offer streams preparing Clinical Nurse Specialist. One needs to visit each school website and read the material posted in order to see what a particular program contains in its curriculum.

Further in the report, the number of 'mandatory clinical hours' are reported. These range from 0 to 624 hours, with a mean of 171.2. Considering the minimum hours required in the US is 500, the Canadian programs as they exist may need to revisit this requirement. Only two of the Canadian programs can match the US program clinical hour requirements, while 8 require no praxis at all. Unfortunately the CASN report does not link the data so it is unknown how many of the CNS programs require hours, and if they do, how many.

As the stewards of 'CNS' practice in Ontario, it does prompt us to think about what are the components that make up a good CNS curriculum. Having a sound curriculum to prepare specialists in nursing practice is the first step in producing graduates who can clearly distinguish themselves



Elsabeth Jensen
President

by their knowledge and skill. It is through their practice that the added value of their contribution becomes clear, and it is through this clarity that the value of protecting the CNS title will emerge.

The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) in the United States is about to host their Annual Conference in Texas (March 7-9, 2013). Once again the program shines a light on the wonderful research being done by our cousins to the south. Here are just a few of the areas where they are leading the way with innovative strategies and programs: reduced falls, lowered nosocomial infection rates, lowered urinary tract infections, reduced decubiti incidence, shortened length of stay, and improved recovery. Many of them are leading these initiatives with a graduate degree in nursing.

While Canadians don't want to be Americans, there are some lessons we can learn from them as we move forward. Investing in Clinical Nurse Specialists is good for the public. For our part, we need to advocate for appropriate programs with practice focused content to prepare these advanced practitioners. Questions that current CNS practitioners can help answer include, what is the content that should be in a graduate program to prepare a CNS for practice in Ontario? Should this be part of a graduate degree in nursing or could it be a post-master's certificate? Do we need both? How many hours of clinical should be in the program and what should the clinical experience look like?

I invite you to think about these questions and to let us know what you think the answers are. The Annual General Meeting for the CNS Association of Ontario is taking place in Toronto on Saturday April 13, 2013. I look forward to seeing you there.

Elsabeth Jensen
President

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CNS Association of Ontario AGM
on Saturday, April 13th, 2013

Come and meet more than 700 CNS at the National US meeting of the NACNS. Representatives from Canada will attend.

As the editor :

Paul-André Gauthier

I invite all the CNS Association of Ontario members to send us notes, articles, pictures of interest for the next newsletter.

We are quite interested in your everyday practice, send us a short article to let your colleagues know what you are doing in your practice.

Website up-dated:

We have a new website. It is still work in progress. Please visit :

<http://cns-ontario.rnao.ca/>

If you have any suggestions, send them to :

pgauthier@rnao.ca

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Conference-NACNS **(National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialist - USA):**

March 7-9, 2013

NACNS 2013 Annual Conference

The CNS: Leading Innovations for Health Care Change.

Hyatt Regency San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas, USA

2013 Conference Program - [download here](#)
[Click here](#) to register online.

Please call (215) 320-3892

If you have any registration questions.

<http://www.nacns.org/>

NACNS Journal

Clinical Nurse Specialist: A Journal For Advanced Nursing Practice. www.cns-journal.com

Subscription is included with NACNS Membership! [join Now](#).

CNS 2013 Annual General Meeting



RNAO

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of Ontario
Association des infirmières et infirmiers cliniciens
spécialisés de l'Ontario

Saturday, April 13th, 2013

8:30 to 11:00 AM

Come and join us for breakfast.

CNS Association of Ontario 2011-2013 Executive members



Picture (from left to right) :

- ✓ Carmen Rodrigue, Director of Education and Membership.
- ✓ Elisabeth Jensen, President.
- ✓ Carole Caron, Director of Communications.
- ✓ Paul-André Gauthier, Director of Finance.

If you need to be in touch with us:

- ✓ ejensen@rnao.ca
- ✓ pgauthier@rnao.ca
- ✓ crodrigue@rnao.ca

CNS Association of Ontario call for nominations for 2013-2015

- ◇ **President.**
- ◇ **Director of Finance.**
- ◇ **Director of Membership and Education.**
- ◇ **Director of Communications.**
- ◇ **Director of Research.**
- ◇ **Director of Policy and Practice.**
- ◇ **MN (CNS stream) Student Representative.**

GUIDELINES

Nominations must be received no later than :

- ◇ **Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013 at 1500 hours (3:00pm).**

Persons nominated must be RNAO and a CNS Association of Ontario members in good standing for the year 2012-2013 and a CNS, who are willing to carry out the obligations of the office to which they may be elected.

Nominees require the signatures of **one** nominator who **must** be RNAO and CNS Association of Ontario member in good standing for 2012-2013.

All nominations should be sent to the President of the CNS Association of Ontario :

Elsabeth Jensen, RN, BA, PhD

President,

CNS Association of Ontario

c/o Graduate Program Director,
School of Nursing,
Faculty of Health
Health, Nursing, and Environmental
Studies Building (HNES), Room 325
York University, 4700 Keele
Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

Tel. (416) 736-2100, ext. 21023

Fax (416) 736-5714 (* please include a cover letter*)

e-mail: ejensen@rnao.ca

CANDIDATE (NOMINEE) CONSENT for a position on CNS Association of Ontario BOD for 2013-2015 :

I, _____, consent to my name standing for election to the office of _____ for the designated term of office, and agree to fulfill the duties of the office if elected.

Signature _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION (please print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: (RES) _____ (BUS) _____ ext _____

FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

RNAO #: _____ CHAPTER: _____ REGION: _____

SUPPORT FOR NOMINEE:

The nominee and nominators **must** be RNAO and CNS Association of Ontario members currently in good standing for the year 2012-2013. In the space below, a nominee is required to obtain the contact information and signatures of **one (1)** nominator. All nominations must be received by mail, by fax or by e-mail (scanned documents) **no later than Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013 at 1500 hours (3:00pm)**. *Applications incorrectly or inadequately completed will not be accepted.*

ENDORSEMENT:**I HEREBY NOMINATE THE ABOVE-NAMED CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF:**

- ☐ **President.**
- ☐ **Director of Finance.**
- ☐ **Director of Membership and Education.**
- ☐ **Director of Communications.**
- ☐ **Director of Research.**
- ☐ **Director of Policy and Practice.**
- ☐ **MN (CNS stream) Student Representative.**

Name _____ RNAO # _____

Address _____

TELEPHONE: (RES) _____ (BUS) _____ ext _____

Signature _____ e-mail : _____

CNS of the Year Award 2013

The 8th **annual CNS of the Year Award** will be presented during CNS Association of Ontario's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, April 13th, 2013. Please review the criteria and submit a completed application with corresponding rationale for those individuals who you feel should be considered.

Purpose:

To provincially recognize a member of the CNS Association of Ontario for outstanding professional achievement as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the domains of advanced nursing practice. The award acknowledges a nurse who demonstrates CNS competencies and exemplary practice in client care, nursing and health care delivery systems. Current board members of the CNS Association of Ontario are not eligible for nomination. The board members may not be involved in nomination processes.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The candidate must be nominated by a Registered Nurse.
2. The candidate has a current Ontario certificate of competence and currently resides in Ontario.
3. The candidate must have current membership in CNS Association of Ontario for one year or longer.
4. The candidate must have **at least 2 years of experience as a Clinical Nurse Specialist**.
5. The candidate must serve as a role model to nursing colleagues by :
 - a. Maintaining an outstanding level of skill and knowledge in their specialty area.
 - b. Utilizing or demonstrating CNS competencies in the five domains of advanced nursing practice.
 - c. Demonstrating quality client outcomes as a result of his/her practice.
 - d. Supporting nurses in the delivery of client care or the advancement of nursing practice.
 - e. Promoting change or collaboration at the system level to improve or impact client care.
6. The candidate actively promotes the role of the CNS.

Award:

Non-transferable complimentary registration to CNS Association of Ontario's AGM April 2013 and a one year complimentary membership to CNS Association of Ontario. The award will be presented at the CNS Association of Ontario's Breakfast Annual General Meeting, held in conjunction with the RNAO AGM. Recipient will be encouraged to attend the meeting. A picture of the award winner will be taken at the AGM and profiled in an upcoming CNS Association of Ontario's newsletter.

Selection:

Applications received by the deadline will undergo review by the selection committee. All of the candidate's information including supporting documentation must be received no later than **Monday, March 25th, 2013 at 1600 hours (4:00pm)**. This deadline will be strictly adhered to in the selection process. The nominators of the successful candidate will be notified prior to notification of the winning candidate. The recipient will then be notified by the President of the CNS Association of Ontario.

Instructions:

1. The candidate should provide information supporting the nomination relating to the specific criteria for the award.
2. All submissions must be submitted individually by the nominators. If submitting electronically, documents must be in Microsoft Word format.
3. The candidate's name should **not** appear anywhere in the body of the material submitted. The candidate's name should appear only on a separate cover page.
4. Two letters of recommendation must be submitted. Both nomination letters must be submitted by Registered Nurses. The candidate's name should not appear in the letter of recommendation. Please refer to the nominee as "the candidate." Each of the criteria must be addressed in the letters with an example. Submission from other individuals may also be included. All information will remain strictly confidential and will not be returned.
5. Selection is made based only on the information submitted.
6. Submit a separate statement of 300 words or less describing the candidate (excerpts will be read when presenting the award at the Annual General Meeting).
7. The recipient of this award will be notified by **April 3th, 2013**.

CNS - **Form** to be completed (**CNS for the Year Award 2013**) :

Candidate's name: _____

Information on the Nominator:

Submitted by : _____

Address of the nominator :

Credentials : _____

Job title : _____

Tel. (day) : _____

Preferred e-mail address :

Information on the candidate:

Home address of the candidate :

Candidate's name : _____

Credentials : _____

Job title : _____

Tel. (day) : _____

Preferred e-mail address :

Work address of the candidate :

Send the nomination to:

Elsabeth Jensen, RN, BA, PhD

President,

CNS Association of Ontario

c/o Graduate Program Director,

School of Nursing,

Faculty of Health

Health, Nursing, and Environmental

Studies Building (HNES), Room 325

York University, 4700 Keele

Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

Tel. (416) 736-2100, ext. 21023

Fax (416) 736-5714 (* please include a cover letter*)

e-mail: ejensen@rnao.ca

CNS Association of Ontario Education Award 2013

A bursary in the amount of **\$ 1,000** will be awarded to a member of the CNS Association of Ontario who:

Is pursuing graduate education in nursing with a CNS stream (Master's or PhD level)
or
Will be attending an advanced practice nursing (CNS stream) conference in the coming year

AND

- Who is a current member of the CNS Association of Ontario (one year or longer);
- Who currently resides in Ontario;
- Who has submitted their curriculum vitae (including mailing address, telephone number and email address);
- Who has enclosed one letter of reference (from a peer or academic reference);
- Who has completed a short essay (not to exceed 500 words) on:
 - ✓ Your professional objectives/ career goals (purpose for undertaking the program of study), and your potential contribution to advanced practice nursing.

Deadline: Monday, March 25th, 2013 at 1600 hours (4:00pm)

Submit to :

Elsabeth Jensen, RN, BA, PhD
President,
CNS Association of Ontario

c/o Graduate Program Director,
School of Nursing,
Faculty of Health
Health, Nursing, and Environmental
Studies Building (HNES), Room 325
York University, 4700 Keele
Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

Tel. (416) 736-2100, ext. 21023

Fax (416) 736-5714 (* please include a cover letter*)

e-mail: ejensen@rnao.ca

Application Process :

Please send *your current curriculum vitae, one letter of reference (academic or professional), and a short essay of why you are deserving of this award to:*

- ✓ The bursary will be awarded at the CNS Association of Ontario's **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, April 13th, 2013.**
- ✓ The person will receive a refund when the Director of Finance of the CNS Association of Ontario has received an official receipt and proof of successful completion prior to October 1st, 2013.

CNS Student Award 2013

* An opportunity for Graduate nursing students *

The CNS Association of Ontario is recognizing a graduate nursing student for each School or Faculty of Nursing who is currently pursuing studies in the CNS stream at the Master of Nursing or PhD level.

To the Director/ Dean of School of Nursing:

- ✓ Please inform the professors in charge of the CNS stream program about this award.

Criteria for the award:

Only nursing professors and / or CNS will be eligible to submit nominations.

Letter of reference demonstrating excellence in theory & in a clinical nursing specialty.

- The letter should also include the following information: name, title, address, e-mail and telephone number of the faculty member nominating the student candidate, as well as the candidate's information. The student needs to be currently residing in Ontario.
- The letter should be supported and signed by 2 professors or CNS who know the CNS student well.

Student Award:

A certificate recognizing the student achievement and a free membership with the CNS Association of Ontario for one year.

Deadline date for submission:

Monday, March 25th, 2013 at 1600 hours (4:00pm)

Submit to:

Elsabeth Jensen, RN, BA, PhD

President,

CNS Association of Ontario

c/o Graduate Program Director,
School of Nursing,
Faculty of Health
Health, Nursing, and Environmental
Studies Building (HNES), Room 325
York University, 4700 Keele
Street, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3

Tel. (416) 736-2100, ext. 21023

Fax (416) 736-5714 (* please include a cover letter*)

e-mail: ejensen@rناو.ca

Your support in the future of Clinical Nurse Specialists is appreciated.