

MEMBERS' VOICES: October 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012
Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing

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IPNIG Goes Above and Beyond - Making sure the IPNIG Members Benefit

This Members Voices report is the conclusion of the past year 2011 activities. These same activities form the foundation for the current year 2012 continuing activities. IPNIG highly energized leaders are volunteers who have taken on the challenge of providing members with invaluable benefits for belonging to Independent Practice Nurses Interest Group.

IPNIG sent in December to all new IPNIG members and all lapsed members a welcome and Christmas greeting, and good wishes for 2012.

IPNIG has added a "Year at a Glance" Calendar to the Upcoming Events section on the IPNIG web site for the convenience of our members! www.ipnig.ca

IPNIG posted an "Open Letter" to all IPNIG members on the Members tab on the IPNIG web site. Here is a list of the invaluable activities that benefit all the IPNIG members:

- Members have their own website dedicated to Nurses in Independent Practice
- Members are alerted to outside influences and changes affecting their nursing practice
- Members can actively participate in achieving the IPNIG goals for independent practice nurses
- Members can advocate for the recognition of their nursing services with equal payment which other health care professionals do
- Members can access the IPNIG website to participate in the IPNIG strategic plan
- Members can learn from the website quarterly updates of timely tips, business savvy and excellent resources
- Members have access to fantastic educational workshops in "How to" skills and learning the Pros and Cons of business operation
- Members can experience workshops geared to all levels of business practice from beginners, to those with up to five years of experience, as well as seasoned business operators

IPNIG members who attended the IPNIG 2011 workshops have shared their feelings: "well worth attending," and "truly amazing", and others say "the workshops are made so much better by having business experts present the necessary skills of business operation."

RNAO initiated in Dec 2010 the Professional Nursing Career Profile initiative.

In Sept 2011, RNAO published some of these professional nursing career profiles on the RNAO "Careers Section. The IPNIG members were asked in March 2011 to tap into this RNAO initiative by writing their professional nurse career practice profiles using the same format. When IPNIG receives their member's profiles they will post these profiles on the IPNIG web site. By doing this the IPNIG members undeniably:

- Gain visibility and recognition from the public community
- Gain recognition of their nursing practice and type of business
- Gain tremendous opportunities from sharing their practice information
- Gain recognition by their colleagues

IPNIG will, as we did last year 2011, continue to provide “how to start a nursing business” education workshops. The IPNIG executive members in 2012 will take *"The Show on the Road"*. The RNAO Windsor Essex Chapter invited IPNIG/OHNIG to jointly present a workshop on independent nursing practice and the pros and cons of a business start up.

By using these workshops the IPNIG members gain immensely from "Networking". IPNIG members are much happier talking one-on-one in person to the presenters, other colleagues and exhibitors. The IPNIG members say, “I cannot begin to tell you how much I learned at these meetings, especially from other independent practice nurses who have “been there, done that” already!

IPNIG will continue to sponsor IPNIG member delegates to attend IPNIG educational events, RNAO meetings and assemblies, RNAO Annual General Meeting (AGM) to experience the workings of RNAO. This is a Win/ Win for the IPNIG members!

IPNIG is continuing the three ongoing projects from last year - Electronic recording, professional practice profiles, and IPNIG directory management.

The world of Health Care as we know it is making meaningful changes as I write this IPNIG activity report. And RNs know that the status quo is changing! Therefore, RNs providing quality professional nursing care as independent practitioners need to *"Step up to the Bar"* and let their communities know what health care services they provide to better protect their health.

Furthermore, all RNs need to take an active part in the dynamic health care delivery changes and realize there is more change just around the corner. Members of IPNIG can be part of molding the *"New Health Care World"*.