



MEMBERS' VOICES: May to September 2013
Speaking out for Nursing: Speaking out for Health

Independent Practice Nurses Interest Group
IPNIG

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- 1. RNAO END: Engage with registered nurses and nursing students to stimulate membership and promote the value of belonging to their professional organization.**

IPNIG calendar year November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013 spent the year asking questions? IPNIG concentrated their activities and meetings on asking the public community, the politicians, lobbyists, health care system administrators, hospital CEOs and nursing colleagues, *"Do you know where independent private practice nurses work and what nursing services they provide?"* (Note: this was the goal established at the IPNIG AGM November 24, 2012)

On December 15, 2012 IPNIG and other IGs met with an expert on how to arrange for IPNIG members planned monthly "meet up" using social media registration. This would provide networking opportunities for sharing their professional practice profiles and helpful tips.

On September 27, 2013 IPNIG have an exhibit booth at the **17th Annual Foot Care Conference** hosted by Ruttan and Associates. IPNIG will connect the attendees who are just starting out, the scope of Primary Health Care and the nature of working as Independent self-employed private practice nurses.

In the IPNIG Fall Newsletter 2012, all IPNIG members were asked to consider joining a growing number of nurses who are responding to National Expert Commission research [June 2102] on the Canadian Health Care system - *"It is time to step up and speak out"*.

In June 2013, IPNIG posted an open letter to IPNIG Members on their web site bringing members attention to the benefits of ['RNAO / IPNIG Membership Benefits for Independent Practice Nurses!'](#)

E-blast to remind members to celebrate International Certified Nurse Day on March 19.

E-blast September 16, 2013 - Indicated an IPNIG Membership Drive in progress, awareness of all the membership benefits, AGM notification with agenda and a new branding marketing image for IPNIG. Strategic planning for IPNIG members includes meet ups for networking and an education session based on the premise ["Why does it matter and where do we go from here?"](#)

The IPNIG web site was refreshed during the months of August and September 2013. The IPNIG web site is now a permanent 'billboard' with easy access to pertinent research, best practice guidelines, business practice know-how, vital information for their nursing practice and a complete start up "To Do List" for self-employed registered nurses.

2. RNAO END: RNAO advances the role and image of nurses as members of a vital, knowledge-driven, caring profession, and as significant contributors to health.

IPNIG co-hosted on March 5, 2013 a public forum by invitation from Canadian Federation Women University CFUW Association and RPNAO. The presentation expanded the knowledge of the attendees on the many registered nurses delivering health care services outside the publically funded health care system. The panel consisted of an insurance nurse rehabilitation specialist, a published author health promotion registered nurse specialist, an enterostomal clinical nurse specialist and an occupational health and environmental safety nurse specialist. The audience posed questions and responded to a written survey. On review it was obvious that this group of attendees from the public community had limited knowledge of the many registered nurses working in independent self-employed private practice in a variety of diverse nursing health care practices.

IPNIG created Aug 2013 a new marketing image to promote independent practice registered nurses as registered nurse specialists that help clients navigate the health care system. IPNIG is proceeding to establish research and best practice guidelines supporting the highest quality of professional nursing care services by independent practice nurses. The expectation is to obtain a nursing standard to validate independent practice nursing services meet credibility, competency, consistency and continuity of care. The independent practice nurses services spread across a broad continuum of health care needs that impact the health of the community "where people live, work and play!" (Alma Alta 1978 Primary Health Care Principles still viable 30 years later! ... **more**)

3. RNAO END: RNAO speaks out on emerging issues that impact on nurses and the nursing profession, health and health care.

IPNIG executive was motivated by the research of the National Expert Commission (CNA June 2012) ***A Nursing Call to Action: The health of our nation, the future of our health system***. The IPNIG Executive on June 5, 2013 revised and strengthened their Policy Practice and Political action goals; specifically aimed to gain recognition and equality for Registered Nurses working in independent private practice. (See www.ipnig.ca)

4. RNAO END: RNAO influences healthy public policy to positively impact the determinants of health, supporting Medicare and strengthening a publicly funded, not-for-profit health-care system.

Met with Lois Brown MP Newmarket /Aurora on January 15, 2013 to discuss *Ways and Means* for better Federal Health Care budgeting for Health Care in Canada.

Met with Frank Klees local MPP Newmarket /Aurora February 17, 2013 to discuss Ontario current unsustainable health care debt and the huge mega dollars spent on administration costs. Health care dollars need to be spent on health care for people. Emphasis on the need to modernize the Canada Health Act including utilization of all registered nurses to full professional capabilities.

Met with Niagara MPP Cindy Forrester to discuss the shortage of health care facilities and the need for health care professionals.

OHNIG joined with other interest groups on April 11, 2013 to listen to a political lobbyist explaining "political savvy" techniques and learn "how" and "who to" approach to promote significant key issues to the politicians. "*Seek first to understand then be understood*" (Covey, Stephen R; *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, 1997)