

MEMBERS' VOICES: April 1 – September 30, 2009
Speaking out for Health: Speaking out for Nursing

SUBMITTED BY: INDEPENDENT PRACTICE NURSES - Jill King IPN Policy Practice Officer

MEMBER SERVICES

The Independent Practice Nurses executive, were challenged by members to have RNAO oversee a public election of the IPN executive. The RNAO Director of Membership proceeded to post on the RNAO/IPN web site the current IPN executive names and biographies as the potential slate of candidates. RNAO then forwarded two directives by memos to all the IPN membership: 1. Invitation for additional candidates 2. Date for them to vote. The final outcome, RNAO acclaimed on May 28th, 2009 the original elected IPN executive as the confirmed elected IPN executive. For those who want to see this voting process by RNAO please see the RNAO/IPN interest group web page.

The elected nine IPN executive members are very happy to serve as the collective voice for nurses in independent practice.

The IPN Executive formulated after deliberation and with input from many IPN members **three (3) goals** for the upcoming two years.

- a. There is a need for a legal definition in health policy to recognize and acknowledge the existence of independent professional registered nurses performing essential health care for clients.
- b. There is a need to determine what constitutes an independent health nurse company for equitable payment and equal rights with other health care professionals.
- c. There is a need to create best practice guidelines BPG for professional nursing standards for care. As well as BPG for health care business operation as a registered nurse in independent practice

IPN state their current strengths as:

- a. The current executive leaders have a vast depth and breadth of work experience and ability to work as a team for the IPN membership.
- b. IPN leaders have stepped forward to form a strong network of IPN members with capabilities for research, education, legal interpretation and business experience to assist other IPN members.
- c. Most important is the significant expertise and experience in guiding the business operation aspects and knowledge needed as independent practice nurses.

IPN has just finished 2 years of development on a comprehensive New Terms of Reference [bylaws] that provide a strong foundation.

Research is thought to be the answer. Currently IPN is seeking background research for a proposed discussion paper that could promote the above identified goals. The scope of this research has already broadened into other provinces with like and similar independent practice nurses. Collaborative evidence based research is being sought on existing health care policy, legal definition, tax law, scope of practice, equitable pay recognition and delivery of quality professional nursing care in recognized nurse operated health care business/clinics.

POLICY/POLITICAL ACTIVITY

IPN established a goal to see why independent practice nurses were not recognized for government funding. The IPN Executive Policy Action representative volunteered for a Community Expert Panel to advise Central LHIN on government funding for resources to keep seniors in their homes. IPN learned how LHINS funding occurred. IPN now had knowledge why the LHINS did not recognize nurses in independent practice and perhaps IPN could research new ways to make recommendations to go about making changes to help their IPN members.

The IPN Executive Policy Action representative was asked to participate on a team of health care policy writers to create a health platform for Frank Klees, the potential Conservative party leader candidate. Significant was part of the proposed health platform targeting prevention in the community by expanded primary health care services.

COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA

IPN completed the RNAO survey for all the interest groups. RNAO wanted to determine information on common goals, strengths and challenges within the interest groups. The IPN replied to the survey using IPN membership input, independent polls of members and past history of independent practice nurses. IPN is looking forward to the survey results at the next IG group meeting on Sept 25th 2009.

Independent Practice Nurses group work in a wide variety of different work capacities. A goal of IPN is to list the diverse nursing services of its members. The aim would be to profile the skilled nursing practices and the individuals in the community that these nursing services are meeting.

One media event this summer by IPN member Gail Courneyea, owner and operator of Angels in Flight celebrated their 25 years of dedicated service. In a public ceremony, in two locations, Oshawa and Peterborough, the local dignitaries were invited to celebrate. The media were on hand to report on the uniqueness of this nursing service and the commitment to 25 years to their clients. IPN executive members were on hand to promote our IPN member success.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Benefits of joining Independent Practice Nurses (IPN)

- IPN newsletter and website communication
- Professional practice skills development workshops
- Networking opportunities across Ontario and Canada
- Professional practice profiles to demonstrate the diversity of nursing services
- Representation on provincial nursing associations and political lobbying
- Reduced RNAO membership fees: professional and business insurance

IPN MEMBER EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Education and Research IPN executive member conducted two IPN member meetings during the summer. The format was question and answer sessions, allowing members to elaborate on their issues. The attending independent practice nurses identified personal, professional practice and business shortcomings they had experienced in establishing their practice.

As a result IPN has created a morning workshop for Nov 14th 2009 “**Independent Nurses Creating Innovative Opportunities**” designed to address some of these issues. The location will be the **Hilton Garden Inn Hotel** located at Eglinton Avenue and Dixie Road in Mississauga.

Following the IPN workshop **the First IPN AGM will be held**. The new slate of IPN officers will officially accept their duties.