

# RPNews

Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan

Spring 2003

Volume 16 No. 1

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## Call for Nominations to RPNAS Council

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan is searching for strong leaders as the Association tackles some difficult issues. The Nominations Committee is seeking such people as candidates for nomination and election to the RPNAS Council.

Four Council positions will be open for nomination. These are: President-Elect and three Members-at-Large. Terms of office be-

gin after that 2003 Annual Meeting. Member-at-Large positions are for two years. The President-Elect position is for two years, after which time the President-Elect assumes the role of President for a further two years.

Nominees must be active practicing members of the RPNAS, who are available to commit to attending four Council meetings and the Annual Meeting each year (approximately eight days),

as well as Council committee meetings. Individuals will also be asked from time to time to attend various functions to represent the RPNAS.

For nomination forms, please contact the RPNAS office at (306) 586-4617 or e-mail at [scoward@rpnas.com](mailto:scoward@rpnas.com).

**Deadline for nominations is April 15, 2003.**

*Nursing:*

*At the Heart of Health Care*



**Nursing Week • May 12-18, 2003**

## RPN DAY May 10, 2003

Registered Psychiatric Nurses Day is coming up on May 10, 2003. Branches and facilities are encouraged to plan special activities to recognize the work of RPN's. If your branch or facility does hold a special event be sure and send a report to head office so that we may share it with other members in the next newsletter.



REGISTERED  
PSYCHIATRIC  
NURSES  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

Spring 2003 Vol. 16, No. 1

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association is the regulatory body for the province's 1,000 RPNs.

RPNAS distributes this newsletter to each of its practicing, non-practicing and student members. *RPNNews* is published four times per year. 2002-2003 deadlines are: Dec. 1, Mar. 1, June 1 and Sept. 1.

**Publication Agreement #1460021**

**RPNAS COUNCIL:**

**President:**

Linda Rabyj, RPN 933-6153

**President-Elect:**

Candace Alston, RPN 766-4321

**Members-at-Large:**

Angie Craig, RPN 766-3923

Don Froese, RPN

Brenda Green, RPN 765-2523

Geraldine Koban, RPN 786-0577

Marion Palidwor, RPN 446-6844

Pamela Watt, RPN 655-4930

Kathy White, RPN 798-0156

**Public Representative:**

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## Executive Director's Update

I am pleased to accept the challenge as Executive Director of the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association. Since my arrival I have been impressed by the attitudes and dedication of all the RPN's that I have the privilege to work with.

These are difficult times and it is difficult to keep up with the wide array of meeting, reports and activities in the area of mental health. Recently released reports echo the long standing issues around the subject of Mental Health as an integral component of the Health Care System. Primary Health Care and an integrated system are forefront in discussions and there is increasing awareness of the impact of Mental Illness and the stigma surrounding it in our society.

The proud history of Psychiatric Nursing is a story about dedicated people who pioneered improvements in the treatment and care of the mentally ill. The future must not see us abandon our vision and values. I have been impressed by the positive view that is held toward Registered Psychiatric Nurses. We have a history of selflessness and collaboration for the greater good of all and have always endeavored as an organization to support improvements and positive change.

I am committed to work with the Council to build the future of the RPNAS in a positive, creative and collaborative manner. The re-establishment of Excellent Psychiatric Nursing Education for Saskatchewan is a priority. Our membership and our history are our strengths. The vision of the future is *Optimal Health Care for all of the Citizens of Saskatchewan* and RPN's will be a valuable part of that future.

Robert Allen

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A reminder to members - *Building the Future: an integrated strategy for nursing human resources in Canada* - is randomly distributing surveys this spring to more than 24,000 nurses in the country. If you receive a survey, please complete it a return it as soon as you can. Your direct input is critical in helping to provide concrete options to improve the work environment of nurses.

Go to [www.buildingthefuture.ca](http://www.buildingthefuture.ca) for news on when the survey will be distributed, and for more information on how to participate.

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## President's Pen

By Linda Rabyj, RPN

Greetings!

The final report of the Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee, *Our Health, Our Future: Creating Quality Workplaces for Canadian Nurses*, was recently released. There are 51 recommendations that are provided in the report that include considerable attention to nursing education. The report and recommendations are timely and encouraging as RPNAS continues to seek a baccalaureate program in psychiatric nursing in Saskatchewan. The full text of the report can be accessed on Health Canada's website.

The Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health recently released a publication, *Partnership, Participation, Innovation...a Blueprint for Reform* that provides principles intended to protect mental health funding as Alberta's Regional Health Authorities move toward a reform agenda. The publication was distributed at the close of the first annual Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health conference. The Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada Board members that attended the conference were able to make strategic links for future partnerships. The Chair and CEO of the Canadian Economic Roundtable provided an interesting perspective through a Keynote Address that focused on a Knowledge Economy. The Global Business and Economic Roundtable have developed a *Charter on Mental Health in the Knowledge Economy*. The charter identifies *Clear and Present Dangers, Principles of Action and Corporate Objectives* to promote and protect the mental health of the work force of the knowledge economy. Perhaps presenting mental health/illness issues within the context of an economic framework may foster the eradication of the stigma that often remains attached to mental illness.

James Redfield's publication, *The Secret of Shambhala – In Search of the Eleventh Insight*, includes the term 'Rten brel'. It is the Tibetan word for synchronicity. It now seems serendipitous to have received this publication as a gift during the final months as the President of RPNAS. The synchronistic process including intuitions and coincidences has seemed to appear to strengthen the position of the profession of Psychiatric Nursing in Saskatchewan.

It has been my pleasure to serve as chair for an organization whose primary mandate is protection of the public. Increasingly, elected council members provided *vis a tergo* during my tenure in the position of President. The current RPNAS office staff have demonstrated their remarkable abilities to embrace many changes. Almost two years ago, at the conclusion of my Inaugural Presidential Address, I stated: "May the force be with us." More recently, it seems that it has! I suspect this 'force' will continue to thrive due to the collective talents of our Executive Director, RPNAS staff, elected Council and RPNs who volunteer their time and expertise to RPNAS.

RPNs in Weyburn have joined together with RPNAS staff to prepare for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for June. On behalf of Council, I urge all RPNs to attend this important annual event.

### RPNAS Central Office Hours

Sept. 1-June 30 0830-1630

July 1-Aug. 31 0830-1600

Closed June 2-4, 2003 for RPNAS Annual Meeting

Closed noon Dec. 24, 2003 through Jan. 1, 2004  
and Statutory Holidays

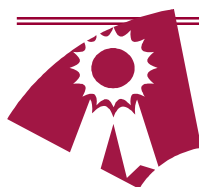
## SASKATCHEWAN HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The RPNAS extends its congratulations to all of the RPN's nominated for this year's awards. The Awards Banquet was held January 31. The RPNAS purchased a table and several local council members, as well as the Executive Director and Registrar attended. Among the final 30 nominees of SHEA were seven Saskatchewan RPN's. Among those nominated were Dan Fraser, Aline Duret, Marlene Allen, Claire Lajeunesse-Lewko, Linda Rabyj and Pam Watt. Special congratulations to winners in the "Team" category, Aline Duret, Marlene Allen and Claire Lajeunesse-Lewko (along with team members Louise Wright, Lynn Rask, Daniel Sande, Elizabeth Moar, Helen Fisher and Tony Depadua) for their innovative and valuable work with the Prince Albert Sexual Health Clinic and Dan Fraser whose leadership and motivation earned him the award in the "Quality of Work" category. The awards highlighted the diverse and valuable services RPN's provide to the people of Saskatchewan.



← Dan Fraser

- From left to right -  
Helen Fisher, Aline Duret,  
Claire Lajeunesse-Lewko,  
Marlene Allen, Lynn Rask ↓



## Acknowledging the Important Contributions of RPN's

The RPNAS is calling for nominations for the RPN Award. This award is presented to Registered Psychiatric Nurses nominated by their peers and selected by a selection committee.

### Intent of the Award

1. To acknowledge contributions of RPN's to the profession in specific areas of the profession and community service.
2. To provide public recognition which will enhance the image of the profession.
3. To inform the public of services and contributions made by RPN's.

### Eligibility

The nominee, nominator and seconded must be members in good standing (active practicing or non-practicing status) with the RPNAS.

### Criteria

RPN's who have contributed to the profession in one or more of the following ways:

1. Promoted awareness of mental health and human service issues.
2. Contributed in other areas deemed appropriate by nominator, seconder.
3. Demonstrated leadership within an area of service delivery.
4. Contributed to the furtherance of Association goals, objectives and activities.
5. Demonstrated leadership within the professional association.
6. Developed and/or implemented innovative programs.
7. Written and published major papers articles, books or pamphlets that bene-

fit the profession, clients, health care workers and-or the general public.

### Deadline Extended - April 30, 2003

Applications for nominations are available from Central Office. Call Shayna at 306-586-4716 or email scoward@rpnas.com to request a form. The deadline for receipt of all nominations for RPN Awards is **April 30, 2003**.

### Class of 1993

If you are interested in planning/attending a 10 year reunion, please contact Kelli (de Jersey) Martin at 306-869-2871

# ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATION DAYS

June 2 & 3, 2003  
Weyburn Inn, Weyburn SK

*RPN's - Seeing People Through  
On the Wings of Change*



- Guest Speakers include -  
Dr. Banerjee, Psychiatrist

Bill Mussell, Chairman, Native Mental Health Association of Canada  
A panel discussion featuring RPN's and other Healthcare Professionals

Education Day \$75.00 (including breakfast and lunch on June 3) - June 2 @ 1:30 pm  
(registration begins at 12:30pm) and further education events June 3 @ 1:00pm

President's Awards Banquet \$25.00 - June 2 @ 6:30 pm (bar opens @ 6:00pm)

There is no charge for the Annual Meeting - June 3 @ 9:00 am  
(registration and breakfast begins @ 8:00 am)

### Hotel Accommodations:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Weyburn Inn. To book a room, please call 306-842-6543

### REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete all areas of form and mail to address below.  
Registrations must be received at Central Office no later than May 23, 2003

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ RPN # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Prov. Postal Code

PHONE: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

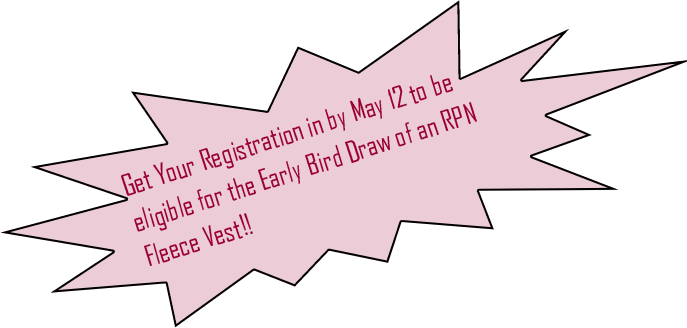
Email Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend:  Education Day \$75.00  President's Awards Banquet \$25.00  
 Annual Meeting (No Charge)

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RPNAS  
2055 Lorne St.  
Regina SK S4P2M4  
Fax: 306-586-6000  
\*Email: scoward@rpnas.com

\* If you register by email please be sure to include all the information required on the registration form and forward payment to central office before the May 23 deadline.



The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan is proud to present:

## EMERGING TRENDS IN MENTAL HEALTH

**Saturday, May 10, 2003**

**Travelodge Hotel, 106 Circle Drive West, Saskatoon**

**Registration Begins at 8:30 am**

**Keynote speakers include:**

**Dr. Renuka Prasad**

*The Management of Psychosis in the Elderly*

**Dr. A. Thakur**

*Treating the Acutely Agitated Patient*

**Dr. Yasin Mahmood**

*The Highs and Lows of Bipolar Disorder*

**Supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Eli Lilly**

**OPEN TO ALL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**  
(Counts as 6 CPD credits for Registered Psychiatric Nurses)

*Conference includes: Continental breakfast, lunch, nutrition breaks and dinner*

**TOTAL COST FOR THE CONFERENCE AND MEALS: NO CHARGE**

*Pre-registration is required. No "walk-in" registrations will be accepted. Maximum attendance: 125*

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 2, 2003**

### EMERGING TRENDS IN MENTAL HEALTH — REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/position \_\_\_\_\_

RPN# (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form to:

RPNAS

2055 Lorne St., Regina, SK S4P 2M4

Fax 586-6000

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 2, 2003**

## SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Association was held February 8, 2003 in Regina, in response to a written request by at least 5% of the membership. The meeting was attended by RPNAS Council, staff, 28 members (in addition to council) and seven guests. The meeting was chaired by Council President, Linda Rabyj, RPN.

In addition to addressing specific issues on the petition, a key topic of concern, for both members and council was communication.

In response to this issue the following motion was made and

carried:

***“Council strike a Special Committee with representation from each branch to examine the communication and consultation within the Association and the Committee develop strategies to rebuild a healthy and effective structure for communication and consultation. This would be presented at the Annual Meeting for members to decide on any possible course(s) of action.”***

Thank you to all the members and guests who took the time to attend this meeting

### Open Forum Discussion

An opportunity will be provided for members to raise issues of concern through an Open Forum at the Annual Meeting June 3, 2003.

Specific time will be set aside for members to bring forward items of concern or interest affecting the profession and-or the general membership. Members are invited to submit items for discussion prior to the meeting to ensure sufficient time is planned in the agenda.

Items raised from the floor will be dealt with at the discretion of the chairperson, after written submissions are discussed and considered, and will be subject to the time limit identified in the rules of order.

An application for Discussion Request is available from Central Office and must be returned no later than May 1, 2003.

The RPNAS is pleased to announce a donation of \$250.00 to the Saskatchewan Gerontological Nursing Association. The SGNA is a nonprofit, volunteer run association of nurses working with older adults throughout the province of Saskatchewan. Their mission is to promote continuous improvement in care and service for older adults across the care continuum and to promote best evidence-based practice of nursing older persons in collaboration with other health care disciplines.

### THE REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES OF CANADA

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada (RPNC) is an incorporated body that represents the profession of Psychiatric Nursing at the national level. It consists of the four regulatory bodies for Registered Psychiatric Nurses. The Board of Directors is formed of the four Presidents and four Executive Directors of those regulatory bodies. The RPNC's vision statement is : "*Quality mental health services for all Canadians*". The mission statement of the RPNC, that is, its reason for being is: *A unified provincial, national and international voice for Registered Psychiatric Nurses in Canada.*

The RPNC is one of the six full partners in the National Sector Study on Nursing funded by Human Resource Development Canada (HRDC). The RPNC is also the official sponsor of the biennial World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses. The CRPNM will be hosting the Congress in 2004. Other areas being addressed by the RPNC include:

- A presentation to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology in regard to its special study on mental illness and mental health.
- The identification of critical issues for the profession of Psychiatric Nursing in Canada.
- Developing a common approach to the ongoing development of Psychiatric Nursing Education in Canada.
- Developing a plan of action to ensure appropriate representation at key meetings and conferences.
- Developing a direct relationship with the Office of Nursing Policy in Ottawa.

## REGISTRAR'S REVIEW

- Barbara Wilson, RPN -

The past number of months have been challenging and very eventful. I have very much enjoyed the learning "stretch" being on staff and being a part of the RPNAS.

Considering that this position is new to our organizational structure, I thought it important to acquaint you with some of the assignments and activities that I am involved with along with the Registrar's mandate.

**NETWORK OF INTERPROFESSIONAL REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS (NIRO)** This group is composed of Registrars and Representatives from thirty Self Regulatory Professional Bodies plus representatives from Saskatchewan Health. The purpose of this group is: In the public interest, to strengthen professional self-regulation through identifying and dialoguing common and current issues. We meet quarterly and exchange some very useful information. Each meeting also includes a guest speaker who presents on strategies and initiatives relative to health. Examples of the kinds of topics presented for discussion are— Recognition of Prior Learning, Saskatchewan Immigration Nominee Program and the Role and Collaboration of Regulatory Bodies in Health Reform.

**RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARN-**

**ING (RPL)** This program is being developed throughout Canada and specifically here through Saskatchewan Learning (Provincial Policy Framework and Implementation Strategy.) This is a process dedicated to assessing and recognizing LEARNING, no matter how the learning is acquired. Adults are returning to educational institutions and bring with them knowledge and skills acquired through life and work experiences. This program provides an opportunity for nurses and others to validate their experiential learning through a formal evaluation process.

I am presently involved in a NEPS sector partnership steering committee whose mandate is to develop a RPL needs assessment for NEPS students. Calibre Strategic Services are the contracted project managers. Once the final document is completed, the committee will review it before it goes to Saskatchewan Learning, where it will be used as a RPL resource.

**INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SERVICES (IQAS)** The mandate of this organization is to assess international education documents and compare them to educational credentials in Canadian provinces in a fair way. It seems that today we are experiencing more foreign trained applications for work in Canada and Saskatchewan. The Registrars from the four western provinces have

unanimously agreed to utilize this service to authenticate the foreign applications we are receiving. It seems as though due to the fact that there are desperate times in many countries, applications to our country and profession are not always reflected by a true and honest application. IQAS will assist us by validating the authenticity of the information being sent to us although we will make the final decision with regards to course content. The cost of this service will be borne by the applicant.

**MENTAL HEALTH AMONG OLDER ADULTS: SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL SPIRITUAL (MH-OASIS)** I am the RPNAS representative on this advisory committee. I wish to thank you for assisting in getting this questionnaire into the hands of the folks in your communities. The response has been significant. Health Canada has confirmed funding for a second year to this project. We are looking forward to a more in-depth association with seniors groups and mental health organizations as a result of this added funding. Jayne Whyte, continues to be the driving force behind this initiative and will present her findings at a colloquium in June, 2003. We will keep you informed regarding her survey findings.

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Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. All RPNAS members are invited to submit news items, information, ideas, commentaries and opinions to Central Office.

The Association reserves the right to select editorial material and to edit content.

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### Direct Payment Plan Reminder

The RPNAS continues to offer participation in a Direct Payment Plan for payment of your 2004 Membership Fees.

If you are enrolled in the plan, your deductions will continue to be automatically collected beginning April 15th. Be sure to update any changes required.

## Professional Development Opportunities

<p>The Saskatchewan Institute on Prevention of Handicaps Presents</p> <p><b>Best Start Saskatchewan Conference</b></p> <p>May 7-9, 2003 Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon</p> <p>For more information, contact: 306-655-2512 www.PreventionInstitute.sk.ca</p>	<p><b>Palliative Care—Being in Touch</b></p> <p>April 11, 2003 9:00am - 4:00pm Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon</p> <p>Presented by: Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan</p> <p>For more information, contact: 306-655-5330 www.chasoffice.ca</p>	<p><b>2ND Annual Canadian Nurse Leaders Forum</b> Time for Action Policy in Action Towards Excellence in Nursing</p> <p>November 12-14, 2003 Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon</p> <p><b>Call for Abstracts</b></p> <p>Deadline April 20, 2003 Contact Susan Smith Brazil at the SRNA ssmithbrazil@srna.org</p>
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Canadian Institute for Health Information and  
Canada's Health Informatics Association  
Presents:

**A Catalyst for Change**

May 24-27, 2003  
The Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto

Deadline April 30, 2003  
Contact: 416-979-3423  
www.e-healthconference.com

**Challenges & Choices**  
**SAHO Annual Long Term Care Conference**

May 14 & 15, 2003  
Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon

Deadline May 7, 2003

Contact:

Caolyn Lang, Program Coordinator  
SAHO Educational Services  
306-347-5904

**Members, please drop in to Central Office and check out our bulletin board of events, resources and other interesting items. It is continuously being updated so check in often.**

**If you know of an event or item you would like posted, please contact the office.**

## ***Saskatchewan's nurses: the Heart of Health Care***

SIAST's Nursing Division salutes Saskatchewan nurses for their commitment to the people they care for and to the profession. Through knowledge, expertise, compassion and decision-making, nurses contribute to quality of life and quality of health care. And through support, mentoring and coaching, they make a significant contribution to the education of our nursing students.

At the Nursing Division, we're proud to advance the nursing profession through excellence in education – both for a new generation of nurses and through continuing education for practicing and returning professionals.

### ***Saskatchewan's nurses: Partners in Nursing Education.***

SIAST's Nursing Division offers the following programs:

- Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan (NEPS) in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan
  - Operating Room Nursing and Techniques
  - Nursing Re-entry
- Practical Nursing
  - Practical Nurse Re-entry
  - Psychiatric Nursing Re-entry
- Continuing Nursing Education Programs
  - Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Basic Critical Care Nursing
  - Gerontological Nursing
  - Basic Diabetes Education for Health Care Providers (new)
  - Advanced Diabetes Education for Health Care Providers (start date June 2003)

**For more information on Nursing Division programs visit our website or contact:**

NEPS Kelsey Campus, Saskatoon 306-933-8056

NEPS Wascana Campus, Regina 306-798-8040

Practical Nursing 306-798-9794 or 1-800-667-7730

Continuing Nursing Education Programs 306-798-3560 or 1-800-667-7730

**[www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com)**

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