Message from the President: Lynn McCleary

WINTER 2015

As my two year term as CGNA president is drawing to a close, I’ve taken some time to reflect on the amazing contributions our members make to CGNA, to gerontological nursing in Canada, and to the health of older adults. I want to congratulate you all for choosing CGNA and for your contributions to achieving our vision of promoting excellence in gerontological nursing through leadership, knowledge, and scholarship.

I’d also like to encourage you to continue your great work – whether it be in local chapters, your provincial associations, on CGNA committees, by contributing to Perspectives, serving on the board of directors, applying for scholarships or research awards, attending webinars, or attending local education events. There are so many ways to be involved and to make a difference. I hope many of you will be in PEI for our biennial conference. It’s a great opportunity to meet like-minded gerontological nurses and health professionals, and to learn about the latest innovations in programs and research.

CGNA recognizes members who make outstanding contributions to gerontology, gerontological nursing, or CGNA through honorary membership. Our list of honorary members is impressive. I’m looking forward to honouring another member when we meet in PEI. The deadline for nominations is extended to March 31st. Please consider nominating a colleague.

Opportunities for member involvement – sharing the Benefits & Passion for Gerontological Nursing

I’d like to thank those members who responded to the call in the last Newsletter to volunteer for a number of the national committees. We still would like to encourage CGNA members to take advantage of opportunities to share their expertise and make a difference in older adults’ health with the Webinar committee.

Webinars & Subcommittee

The 2015 CGNA Webinars are in full swing, watch for the Newsflashes and check the CGNA website.

The Webinar Subcommittee meets two to four times a year to brainstorm about topics and speakers for the Webinar Series. We are seeking new members for the subcommittee and would love to have representation from across our great nation. If you would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Carla Wells at cwells@grenfell.mun.ca

CGNA Nominations 2015

We are approaching the biennial conference and our Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 28th, we encourage you to think of colleagues whom you think may be nominated. The process is posted on the Website and includes the position descriptions and criteria for nominations for each position. The CGNA Executive positions to be filled include: President-Elect and Secretary. The Board
positions to be filled will be nominated at the provincial level during provincial elections and AGMs held over the next few months prior to the CGNA conference.

**Strategic Plan 2015**

The CGNA Board is working with two of our members to develop and propose the Strategic Plan; this is a process our association goes through every few years to keep current and meet the needs of members. You will soon receive a call for a survey being sent out to nurses and members. The goal is to ensure we are the voice for gerontological nursing in Canada and to identify priorities and needs of members.

**Communications Subcommittee**

Thank you to those members who have signed up for subcommittees. We hope to have a couple of sessions on the different roles at the CGNA national meeting in May in PEI. These could also be useful for those of you interested or currently in these roles at your local or provincial levels.

**Twitter**

We now have a CGNA Twitter account! Ours is: @CGNA_ca

If you don’t already have an account, do consider signing up and trying it. This is an opportunity to take part in discussions leading up to and at the Conference in PEI. Please tweet and retweet about the conference and about CGNA.

**CGNA Facebook**

Remember when you are on Facebook that you can post comments – this becomes especially important when as an association, we are discussing issues and around conference times – offer comments, questions, and dialogue!

**Perspectives – Journal for CGNA**

Thank you to those members from across Canada who are reviewers. We could still use some representation from Saskatchewan, PEI and Quebec; if you are interested in becoming a reviewer for Perspectives please contact: lorna.guse@umantioba.ca

**Research Competition**

The call for the research grant competition is on the website at: [www.CGNA.net](http://www.CGNA.net) – details are posted and the deadline for submissions is **March 31, 2015**.

**Certification**

One way in which CGNA members contribute and benefit is through our participation in writing the certification exam, recertifying and helping colleagues to prepare to write. There are provincial study groups for those who have signed up and members also make use of the Webinars in preparing to write.
**Nominations Open for Honorary Life Member Award – extended to March 31st!**

This award is presented in recognition of a member's outstanding contribution to the field of gerontology and the gerontological nursing profession or CGNA. Please consider nominating an outstanding colleague for this award.

To be eligible, the nominee must be a long-standing member of CGNA and have made a significant contribution to gerontological nursing and/or CGNA by one or more of the following:

- Creating or assisting in the organizing and implementing of new or improved gerontological nursing care delivery or gerontological education programs.

- Demonstrating clinical expertise resulting in an improvement in gerontological nursing care delivery.

- Initiating or contributing to activities which have resulted in increased status and public recognition for gerontological nursing practice as a whole, through administrative ability; leadership and service within the association; having earned the respect, admiration and support of other nurse leaders and/or.

- The nominee must have made a scholarly contribution to gerontological nursing practice and growth in the areas of published material; research and teaching or public statements on questions relating to gerontological nursing.

A letter documenting evidence of meeting these criteria must be submitted to Lynn McCleary (mlynnmccleary@gmail.com) by March 31, 2015. The nomination must be supported by 6 nurses who are active members in CGNA at the time of the nomination. Each supporting members will write a letter documenting their view of evidence of the candidate's contributions and how these contributions have positively influenced gerontological nursing.

See the CGNA website for information about our honorary life member award recipients. [http://www.cgna.net/Honourary_Members.html](http://www.cgna.net/Honourary_Members.html)

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**Saint Elizabeth Health Career College**

Saint Elizabeth Health Career College is offering 4 gerontology webinars for nurses preparing to write the certification exam. The cost is $150.00 per participant and includes an e-learning course ‘The Older Adult’ plus 4 webinars during February and March. For more information go to: [http://www.saintelizabeth.com/Career-College/Programs-Courses/Certificate-Professional-Development-Courses.aspx](http://www.saintelizabeth.com/Career-College/Programs-Courses/Certificate-Professional-Development-Courses.aspx)

If you have any questions, please contact [robinhurst@saintelizabeth.com](mailto:robinhurst@saintelizabeth.com)
Join us at the premiere educational, research-based conference for professionals in the field of gerontological nursing! This year’s CGNA Conference will cross bridges between disciplines, generations, and practices to overcome challenges and promote innovation in gerontological nursing.

**Professional Development** - stay up-to-date on best practices and the latest research and innovations

**Share Knowledge** - an unparalleled opportunity to share knowledge with peers from across the country

**Network** - Strengthen your networks at one of the largest gatherings of nurses and health professionals working with older adults

**Take a Deserved Break** - Make it a vacation by experiencing all that beautiful PEI has to offer – from dining, to outdoor activities, to world-class art and culture

Registration is now open online with Early Bird rate until March 14th!
Hotel rooms available now at the Rodd Charlottetown

www.cgna.net
Provincial Reports

Alberta – Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association

AGNA members are supporting members’ province wide preparing for the CNA certification in gerontology exam this spring. The weekly teleconference sessions provide a medium to share resources, study strategies along with presentations by ‘content’ experts who address key concepts and questions. The 2015 Conference planning committee is well into the details for this year’s annual event on 24th of April! The theme is ‘Older Adults at Risk: Strategies for support and care’. A social networking event on the Thursday evening is also under construction.
AGNA Chapter groups have held winter member networking and education events. The chapter activities have ranged from utilizing Telehealth in an outreach effort; tour and discussion at a faculty ‘simulation lab’, topical documentaries / movies to joint dinner meetings with like-minded professional interest groups.

British Columbia - Gerontological Nurses Association of British Columbia : www.gnabc.com

We have 221 members provincially in 10 chapters. Ongoing challenge for the chapters is membership recruitment and retention.

- The GNABC membership chair is exploring use of social media, such as Facebook. The education chair has developed a speakers back up list of education resources.
- The website has a section that provides information of study groups that members can join for writing the CNA Gerontology exam in April.
- We are looking forward to the GNABC 2015 conference, which will be held on April 23, 24 & 25, 2015 at the Coast Capri Hotel located in beautiful Kelowna, B.C. The conference theme is “We’re in this together”-Advocacy- “What is your Role?”  The brochure will be available soon – for details go to: www.gnabc.com.

Manitoba – Manitoba Gerontological Nurses’ Association AGM & education date:

- The Manitoba AGM is planned for May 5th – details to follow
- MGNA is in the process of developing criteria to offer 2 MGNA travel bursaries to support members to attend the 2015 CGNA conference in PEI
- MGNA is exploring using social media such as Facebook and or Twitter
New Brunswick – New Brunswick Gerontological Nursing Association:

The NBGNA December educational session was on Elder Abuse, all types. Our speaker was from the Coalition Against Abuse in Relationships Inc. The upcoming AGM and Board elections will be held Friday, April 10, 2015. Information on location and time will be announced soon.

Newfoundland – Newfoundland & Labrador Gerontological Nurses Association

NLGNA members are regrouping and re-organizing – we hope to have more information soon!


The 31st NSGNA Annual General Meeting and Education Sessions will be held in the Spring of 2015.

Ontario – Gerontological Nursing Association Ontario – [www.gnaontario.org](http://www.gnaontario.org)

It was announced during the Provincial Conference held in November 2014, that GNAO will now hold their Annual General Meetings in the Spring. This will allow them to host two provincial education offerings and networking opportunities for members as well as align us with the new Not-For-Profit Act. They will hold their first Spring AGM in Toronto.

Prince Edward Island – Prince Edward Island Gerontological Nurses Association

Upcoming PEIGNA events: hosting the CGNA Biennial Conference!
PEIGNA General meeting April 1, 2015 and the PEIGNA AGM June 3, 2015

Of special note:
PEIGNA’s recent update provided by members of the planning committee have renewed and instilled much excitement in all its members! If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact the committee. Provinces and members are encouraged to please continue to watch the conference website for notice of the Silent Auction details. Funds raised through the silent auction go towards the Memorial Scholarship. Please check out the conference website for programs and registration [http://www.cgnaconference.ca](http://www.cgnaconference.ca)
THE CANADIAN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE

CGNA EXECUTIVE

President: Lynn McCleary, RN, BScN, MSc, PhD
President Elect: Veronique Boscart RN, MScN, MEd, PhD
Treasurer/Membership: Lilian MacTaggart, RN, BScN, MHSA, CHE, GNC (C)
Secretary: Carla Wells, RN, BScN, MN, PhD
Past President: Diane Buchanan, RN, BScN, MScN, PhD, GNC(C)
Research Chair: Jennifer Baumbusch, RN, PhD
Perspectives Journal Editor: Lorna Guse, RN MScN, PhD, GNC(C)

PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

British Columbia, GNABC President: Kim Martin
Alberta, AGNA President: Lynne Moulton
Manitoba, MGNA President: Poh Lin Lim
New Brunswick, NBGNA President: Dawn Fenton
Nova Scotia, NSGNA President: Sohani Welcher
Ontario, GNAO President: Julie Rubel
Prince Edward Island, PEIGNA President: Jennifer Pitre
Newfoundland / Labrador, NLGNA, Interim President: Carla Wells

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