

# Open Letter to Nurses

Information for nurses working in the Winnipeg health region.



December 2008

In this issue: A look back over 2008 and a glimpse of '09.

'Tis the season to reflect. What an exciting year it has been for nursing - packed full of celebrations, educational initiatives and opportunities and technological advances! In 2008, nurses have raised their voices to be heard on important issues and have developed the profession farther than ever before, preparing all of us for the future.

Celebrations throughout the year included National Nurses Week, the Canadian Nurses Association centennial and the CRNM Professional Achievement Awards. There was also recognition of 100 exceptional nurses across Canada - which included eight from Manitoba, and the 2008 Spacelabs Innovative Project Awards was awarded to a group of nurses at Victoria General Hospital! We also now have a new CNA president, Kaaren Neufeld, from Manitoba!

Educational opportunities were plentiful with many ways for current nurses to stay involved and up-to-date through Nursing Practice Councils (NPC) and other educational resources. We witnessed the development and success of the Winnipeg Critical Care Nursing Education Program and launch of the regional Pain Assessment and Management clinical practice guideline.

Evidence informed practice and technology progress was made during the year with the expansion of the Minimum Data Set to all personal care homes in Winnipeg and the Electronic Patient Record

(EPR) going live at St. Boniface General Hospital. Looking into future advances we can be excited about more EPR activity and the potential for C-HOBIC, real-time information system for nursing, to be introduced to home care and the personal home care sector in the Winnipeg health region.

Looking ahead we must also be aware of the changing global economy and how that may impact our field. There will, of course, be a need to be cost effective in our work. We must ensure nurses are doing nursing work, but further expand the role of nursing through advanced practice nursing roles. Efforts to recruit and retain nurses must continue. The New Grad Day will be held on Feb. 27, 2009 at Victoria Inn and will welcome and support those new to the nursing profession.

This is an opportune time to advance nursing practice through interprofessional education and practice models, through optimizing technology in nursing practice and by expanding the role of nurses in maintaining health within the community. As was the key focus of the 2008 CNA convention, "be

the change" should remain a strong focus for all of us into the New Year.

Thank you to all nurses across the Winnipeg health region for your efforts and focus throughout 2008. May the holiday season bring you much happiness and continued positive outlook into 2009.

  
Jan Currie



*The last Open Letter discussed education. Here's some additional information on Brandon University:*

Brandon University's Bachelor of Nursing (BN) and Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (BScPN) programs prepare nurses to provide quality care through innovative practice in an integrated curriculum. The BN program admits 48 students per year at the Brandon campus. The BScPN program is offered in Brandon and a Winnipeg campus (491 Portage Ave) and admits 75 students per year across both program sites. For more information contact Student Advisors: Tracey Collyer BN Student Advisor at 571-8567 or collyert@brandonu.ca and Cathy Demas BScPN Student Advisor at 727-7403 or demas@brandonu.ca.



Access to the current issue and past issues of Open Letter to Nurses is available on INSITE. Submissions and comments are welcome.

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