

NPAO Members

As President of NPAO, I will prepare a monthly blog on the new website. The Annual Report, the NPAO/RNAO Progress Report and the Fact Sheet on the Value of Nurse Practitioners will also be posted on the website. We hope the new website will provide a rich source of relevant information for our members.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our recent NPAO conference and Annual General Meeting. The energy and enthusiasm among the 400 NPs who attended was contagious, and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some plans for 2012.

The past year has brought historic changes to legislation which has enabled NP scope of practice. Nowhere else in the country do patients have the opportunity to benefit so effectively from the highly skilled care of nurse practitioners. We have much to celebrate and be proud of. The rest of the country is watching as we move forward with the implementation of our enabled scope of practice, and we look forward to participating in a national NP agenda.

During this past year as President-Elect, I have been constantly reminded of the high regard in which NPAO is held among our many stakeholders. We are regularly consulted and asked to give input on a wide variety of issues affecting health care in Ontario. We have a strong foundation of respect and collegiality which has been carefully built over many years, and we will continue to strengthen this foundation as we move forward.

With the enabling of NP scope of practice through Bill 179 and Regulation 965, NPAO will focus on providing support to our members to ensure competence and confidence are maximized. We will shortly provide a toolkit which will facilitate the process of NPs treating and discharging hospital inpatients, in collaboration with CNEs. Our highly successful OTN sessions will continue to provide opportunities for monthly CMEs to enable confidence in full prescriptive authority.

Retention and recruitment of NPs is a significant issue which impacts access to care and this is affected by compensation discrepancies across sectors. There are market value comparisons available for all of the health disciplines, and salary comparisons for NPs, family physicians, PAs, pharmacists, RNs, etc has been reviewed. NPAO has met with members of the OMA President and the OMA Negotiations Committee to ensure the OMA is aware of NP-related issues. We have also formed an alliance with other provincial organizations such as the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario and the Association of Ontario Health Centres, so there is a clear and unified approach to negotiations on behalf of all NPs, other than those NPs represented within collective bargaining units such as ONA and CUPE. As funding models continue to change, NPAO will further pursue the need for streamlined and fair compensation for NPs in a variety of practice settings.

We are continuing to work on removing barriers to direct referral to specialists, and supporting the successful Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics which are pioneering new models of providing health care to patients of all ages.

As I take on the stewardship of our professional organization, I would like to thank the highly dedicated and visionary Board members who have made this year such a success. With our new Executive Director, as well as our new Member Relations and Communications Specialist, NPAO is very well positioned for an extremely successful year. I encourage all of you to consider volunteering your expertise in whatever way interests you, as this is the foundation of our success.

We are 1309 members strong. We are the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario.

Claudia Mariano
President