

## Registered Psychiatric Nurses Foundation Inc.

### Presidents Report 2012



How far we have come, how far we have to go!

An annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on the past but also an opportunity to dream about what lies ahead. I will share some of my reflections with you.

In 1980 when the Foundation was organized as a registered charity under Manitoba Corporations Act, the profession was at a very different place. The training of psychiatric nurses was institutional based in Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Selkirk. Opportunities for employment and advancement outside the institutions were limited. Today, 32 years later, registered psychiatric nurses entering the profession are university educated; a Baccalaureate in Psychiatric Nursing is the prerequisite for licensing with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses on Manitoba. In 2011, the Masters of Psychiatric Nursing, the first Canadian master's program specifically for registered psychiatric nurse (RPNs), began enrolling students through Brandon University. How long will it be till all faculty in the department of psychiatric nursing are masters prepared? How long before RPNs will have access to a Doctorate of Psychiatric Nursing?

Over the last 32 years, the Foundation and the Canada Revenue Agency, which regulates all charities in Canada has undergone many changes. In 1997, the Foundation awarded its first bursary. In 1998, three bursaries' were designated, named in honor of individual RPNs that had left their mark on the profession locally, provincially and nationally. In 2009 the Marlene Fitzsimmons Scholarship was initiated; and in 2010 the a national scholarship in memory of John Alex Crawford was initiated.

Today the Foundation awards five annual scholarships, awards that are based on academic performance. Four scholarships are awarded to RPNs eligible for registration with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba or student's psychiatric nurse; and one scholarship, the John Alex Crawford, is awarded to any Registered Psychiatric Nurse in Canada. Slowly and gradually the Foundation works towards its initial intent of encouraging and supporting scholarly review of practice, and research that advances the profession and ultimately the quality of care provided to residents of Canada by RPNs.

The Foundation has reaffirmed its goal of building a **\$100,000 endowment fund**. Achieving this goal will enable an increase in the dollar amount of annual scholarships and allow for increasing the number of scholarships. In 2011, the Foundation focused on the following activities:

- with society's increased use of technology a greater focus is placed on improving the web site as the Foundations major communication tool,
- the web site has been updated with a focus on increasing our use of technology that is safe and secure for people to submit:
  - donations including donations in memory or in honor of someone

- applications for scholarships to meet the January 15 deadline each year
- the CRPNM debit plan continues to be a major source of donations with 65 contributors raising \$3490 annually. Thank you to those who contribute through the debit plan. If you do not, please consider adding your name to the debit plan donation list.
- each year the scholarship application and selection process is reviewed to better ensure a blind, non-biased review and selection of scholarship winner,
- with over a thousand CRPNM members an increase in the number of applications received will better justify increasing the value of and number of scholarships
- the World Congress for Psychiatric Nursing will be hosted in Winnipeg in 2013; the Foundation looks forward to working with the Congress Planning committee in ways that will increase awareness and donations that will bring us closer the \$100,000 goal

The Foundation, as a partner in an ever evolving psychiatric nursing/ mental health community is pleased to see the continued growth of the Masters of Psychiatric Nursing program offered by Brandon University. This program will provide baccalaureate educated RPNs opportunities to continue their education, hence contributing to succession planning to ensure that "RPNs educate RPNs".

Congratulations to the founding members of the new on line Canadian Journal of Psychiatric Nursing Research, Dr. Larry Mackie and Annette Osted, past Executive Director CRPNM. This is just one more way for Registered Psychiatric Nurses to share their research and their contributions to improving the practice of psychiatric nursing and quality of mental health care in Canada.

Congratulations also to Annette Osted, past Executive Director of the CRPNM who will be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at Brandon University Convocation on June 1, 2012. Annette was one of the founders of the Foundation and has been a great supporter over the years.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Foundation Inc. encourages all who read this to support the Foundation financially by making a donation and /or individuals or groups interested in volunteering your talents and skills in the area of fundraising would be greatly appreciated.

Welcome to new board members Ken Krahn, Larry Mackie and Amy Martyniuk. Thank you to these new board members and to the continuing board members Cathy Demas, Beverley Hicks, Melanie Ferg, Grant Major, Laura Panteluk, Richard Stefanyshyn, and Melanie Shumilak.

Thank you to CRPNM staff, Laurie Cenerini and John Schmidt, that provides support to the Foundation.

The Foundation looks forward to a year of opportunity and continued growth , please join in this growth by making a donation of time and/or money.

Respectfully submitted

**Marlene Fitzsimmons, President**