



Registered Psychiatric Nurses Foundation Inc.

President's Report 2013

Marlene Fitzsimmons



2013 has been another busy year for the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Foundation Inc.

This report will highlight some of the activities since the last annual meeting including:

The RPNF has carried on its tradition of naming scholarships in honor of RPN's that have influenced the growth of the psychiatric nursing profession. In 2012, the RPNF developed the Annette Osted scholarship in honor of Annette Osted, the former Executive Director of the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM).

The Annette Osted scholarship is awarded to a 3rd or 4th year student enrolled in a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing Program in Canada. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2013 to Ching-Lun (Chris) Tsai, a 4th year psychiatric nursing student at Kwantlen Polytechnic University British Columbia.

The RPNF now awards six scholarships annually. The other 2013 scholarship recipients are:

- John A. Crawford Scholarship – Candice Waddell – Nunavut
- Alf Barnett Scholarship – Karen Clements
- John Kellie Scholarship – Ashley Langford
- Kay Armstrong Scholarship – Tara Turner
- Marlene Fitzsimmons Scholarship – Karen Clements

In 2012, the RPNF was asked to assume responsibility for the Manitoba Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing awards formerly presented by the CRPNM. Three awards will be presented at awards luncheon on the 23rd May, 2013.

These include:

- Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Leadership – Administration – Patrick Griffith
- Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Leadership – Education – Isabelle Jarrin
- Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Leadership – Clinical Practice – Bev Gradidge

The 2013 World Congress for Psychiatric Nursing was held in Winnipeg May 2- 4. The Foundation used this as an opportunity to raise awareness and funds. Clothing bearing the RPN logo and 50/50 tickets were sold. Much was learned from this endeavor.

A meeting between representatives of the Foundation and Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada (Presidents and Executive Directors of each of the four provincial psychiatric nursing organizations) was held during the Congress.

Like the CRPNM, most of the bodies that regulate the psychiatric nursing profession in Canada are changing in response to legislative requirements.. It was generally agreed that ideally there could /should be one registered charity (Foundation) representing psychiatric nurses across Canada and that the RPNF could assume this role. To achieve this vision will require much work and discussion at the different levels.

Congratulations to College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta that announced at the World Congress approval for a Baccalaureate Program for Psychiatric Nursing to begin in September 2014 at Grant MacEwan College.

The Masters of Psychiatric Nursing Program at Brandon University continues to grow resulting in more applications for the two scholarships for RPN's enrolled in Masters and Doctoral programs the John A. Crawford and Alf Barnett. It

also means that RPN's enrolled in this and other masters and doctoral programs are growing the profession through exploration of new and current psychiatric nursing practices in education, practice and research.

Thank you to the board members that have served in 2011-2013 including Cathy Demas, Melanie Ferg, Beverley Hicks, Ken Krahn, Larry Mackie, Amy Martyniuk, Grant Major, Richard Stefanyshyn. Good luck to those that are moving on to other endeavors.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Foundation Inc. is the only charitable Foundation in Canada that supports the growth of the profession through your donations.. We look forward to receiving your support through your donations.

Marlene Fitzsimmons

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