



REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES'
FOUNDATION INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 12, 2021

This past year has been an unprecedented year as the world has had to manage with the many challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. It has changed the way we live our lives and for many people it has increased their isolation and loneliness. The need for Registered Psychiatric Nurses continues to increase as they fulfill a unique role in the mental health system, working with individuals, groups and communities; assisting them with their mental health, wellness and recovery.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation's (RPNF), is a registered charitable organization that supports psychiatric nursing education and excellence by awarding seven scholarships, up to eight awards of excellence, two gold medals of excellence, and a bursary.

This year the Foundation is awarding nine scholarships (5 Provincial and 3 National scholarships valued at \$5000. This year two additional scholarships will be awarded through the funds from two scholarships that did not have applicants.

Each year, through the Manitoba Awards of Excellence Program, we ask for nominations of Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN) who are excelling in leadership, clinical practice, education, and research. This year we changed the criteria that required that one of the nominators had to be an RPN. We heard how many RPN work in a variety of roles where they may be the only RPN. So we eliminated the barrier. It is our role is to celebrate and highlight the great work being done by RPNs! This year we are presenting three awards; two in leadership and one in clinical practice.

The scholarships and Awards of Excellence will be presented this evening via Zoom.

In 2020, the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM) transferred the privilege of awarding the Gold Medals of Excellence to two graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing (B. SC.P.N.) from Brandon University. While due to the pandemic, the ceremonies were cancelled, the Foundation was able to present the recipients with the new RPNF Gold Medals of Excellence - Shelby Eng from the Brandon Campus and Taylor Maida from the Winnipeg Campus.

Brandon University also awards the RPNF Bursary to a student who has completed 3rd year and is entering their 4th year in the B.Sc.P.N. program. The 2020 bursary was awarded to Jessica Kis valued at \$700.00

The Foundation was not able to hold the annual Grey Cup raffle last year due to the pandemic. Instead we held a virtual 50/50 raffle which ended up being fun and successful! Thank you to



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everyone who participated! This last year we also sold a number of RPNF clothing items and water bottles.

Congratulations to Dr. Beverley Hicks, a Board Director, who is the author of "Politics, Personalities, and Persistence: One Hundred Years of Psychiatric Nursing Education in Manitoba"! Dr. Hicks is *donating* \$10.00 from every book sale to the Foundation. Check it out! It is a great read. *Thank you Beverley!*

Stay tuned for the 2022 Psychiatric Nursing Education Event – "Celebrating 100 Years of Psychiatric Nursing in Canada, in terms of education and practice." A great team of RPNs from the four western provinces have formed a committee and are busy planning for May 2022. Proceeds from this event will go towards supporting the work of this Foundation. *Thank you!*

The RPNF would like to formally acknowledge the Foundation's 2020 donors, whose financial support ensures that psychiatric nursing students and Registered Psychiatric Nurses are supported in their studies and acknowledged for their work:

	Dr. Marlene Fitzsimmons		Dr. Annette Osted
	Darlene Henry		George Tipliski
	Sharon Young		Kaylie Cole
	Mike Cook		Dr. J. Renee Robinson
	Marg Synyshyn		Doreen Fey
	Dr. Beverley Hicks		Bev Gradidge
	House of Silver		Bonny Wynnobel

In 2020 the Foundation experienced the loss of two popular sources of donations: 1) debit plan (tied to the RPN registration for the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba) and 2) not able to host the annual Awards Event in person. While there has been a slight decrease in funding, the Foundation is doing well. We will be looking for new opportunities to connect/inform people about the Foundation and thus continue to further build the Foundation. Donations can be made by cash, cheque, CanadaHelps and e-transfer.

A thank you is graciously extended to the many people who gave many volunteer hours and used their skills and abilities to enhance the Foundation in many different ways:

1. Executive Committee - Marg Synyshyn (Vice-President), Bev Gradidge (Secretary) and Doreen Fey (Treasurer) who worked to ensure all the key business processes were in place, (previously completed by the CRPNM), were captured, completed, documented and filed. Doreen Fey managed the finances and Bev Gradidge managed the secretarial/communication. Both major roles for the Foundation.



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2. Contract staff, Kathe Meseman, accounting services, and Audrey German, administrative support services, who assist in completing the daily business in a timely manner;
3. Scholarship Evaluation Committee - Amy Martyniuk (co-chair) and Dr. Beverley Hicks (co-chair), Dana Naismith (Director). Other provincial volunteers who participated in the scholarship committee included Dr. Philip Woods (Sask Rep.), Dr. Anthony Brannen (Alb Rep) , Dr. Michel Tarko (BC Rep), and Dr. Renee Robinson (MB rep);
4. Awards of Excellence Committee - Mallory Schmitz (Chair) and Marg Synyshyn.
5. Communication Committee – Bev Gradidge, Mallory Schmitz, Dana Naismith, Jennifer Adair and Audrey German who worked together and ensured the Foundation's messages were communicated in an effective and timely manner, using all possible means. This included the Foundation's website, FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter, and email. This committee had a busy year!
6. Many of the Directors were also busy revising and developing policies/procedures plus establishing terms of references for the various working committees. Thank you to all the committees for your work and a big thank you to Bev Gradidge for tapping into her policy writing abilities and to Danah Bellehumeur for providing the detailing and final polish;
7. Bev Gradidge who created the executive position descriptions and yearly calendar. Those are essential tools for a volunteer board!
8. The College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba for their ongoing support and assistance as required.
9. The Association of Regulated Nurses of Manitoba who have assisted the Foundation with promotions of special events.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonny Wynnobel, President