



2022 RPNF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has been an especially challenging year for the mental health of global citizens. As the pandemic has continued to change the face of daily life and the world seeks to adjust to these realities we also find ourselves grappling with world conflict and war. Psychiatric nurses have risen to meet emerging needs as psychiatric nurses do, pivoting to unique mental health circumstances and working tirelessly in the field, often under less-than-ideal circumstances. Whether efforts are aimed at providing mental health intervention, education or leadership or at engaging critical areas of research, psychiatric nurses know that they are made for these times and have emerged as leaders in the mental health field.

As a registered charitable organization, the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation, Inc. (RPNF) is proud to support psychiatric nursing excellence with Scholarships, Awards of Excellence, Medals of Excellence as well as a Brandon University Bursary. This year the Foundation awarded 3 (three) scholarships and 2 (two) Awards of Excellence at the RPNF Virtual Scholarships & Awards Reception. To date, the RPNF has awarded 111 Scholarships at a value of over \$55,000.00 as well as 115 Awards of Excellence and 14 RPNF Bursaries. In 2020, the Foundation was pleased to assume the role of awarding Gold Medals of Excellence to 2 (two) graduates per year from the Brandon University Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program, thus has awarded 6 Medals of Excellence to date. The RPNF strives to promote the success stories of its awardees highlighting the specialized skills of psychiatric nurses at this pivotal time in our country's history. Our primary methods of communication include our website at www.rpnf.ca, our social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @rpnfca) and regular contact with individuals through our [mailing list](#).

The RPNF relies exclusively on donations and fundraising to fund its mission. We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to our donors, and to those who have participated in this year's fundraising. Each and every contribution helps the Foundation do this important work. Thank-you also to the incredible generosity of one of our Board Directors, Dr. Beverley Hicks who continues to donate \$10 from every copy sold of her book Politics, Personalities & Persistence: One Hundred Years of Psychiatric Nursing Education in Manitoba (go to www.rpnf.ca to purchase). Over the past year, the RPNF has added two options for giving – a donation button on Facebook, as well as a PayPal option through Canada's PayPal Giving Fund.

Thank-you to all who supported the second annual RPNF 50 / 50 Draw. Profits nearly doubled from our 2020 effort which results in a win-win for ticket buyers and the RPNF. We look forward to an even more successful draw in 2022. Sincere thanks to Dr. Annette Thorimbert Osted, RPNF Past President for donating the majority of her 2021 winnings back to the RPNF!

The RPNF would also like to thank the House of Silver for its generous sponsorship of the gold Medals of Excellence again this year.

We warmly thank our 2021 donors, and acknowledge their contribution to the recognition and academic growth of psychiatric nurses:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ Dr. Marlene Fitzsimmons | ✓ Darlene & Larry Henry |
| ✓ Dr. Annette Thorimbert Osted | ✓ Dr. Beverley Hicks |
| ✓ Jennifer Adair | ✓ Dr. J. Renee Robinson |

Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation
1854 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0G9



- ✓ Bonny Wynnobel
- ✓ Doreen Fey
- ✓ Janice Armstrong

- ✓ Marg Synyshyn
- ✓ Bev Gradidge

The RPNF could not accomplish its goals without the tireless work of its volunteer board, and the generosity of Past Presidents and Directors availing themselves for consultation. The Foundation is pleased to have recruited Shalene Rochon, CPA CGA as a Director assuming its accounting functions. Now in her third year, the Foundation is also pleased to have welcomed Director, Marycia Kruk, LLB whose research into legal matters has been invaluable. Sincere thanks to the Executive whose workload behind the scenes supports the smooth functioning of this enthusiastic Board. Thank-you also to the Scholarships, Awards of Excellence and Communications Committees. In the midst of the indubitable pressures of pandemic working and living, this group of individuals has gone over and above supporting the Foundation to reach new heights. This year we bid farewell to two Directors who have supported the Foundation in a multitude of critical areas. We look forward to opportunities for continued consultation with Doreen Fey and Kim Toews, and welcome our new Directors.

The RPNF remains grateful to the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba, the Association of Regulated Nurses of Manitoba and the Canadian Nurses Foundation for our mutual work supporting the profession of psychiatric nursing.

Over the past year, the RPNF has engaged in critical examination of its goals as it strives to increase capacity to support psychiatric nursing education and excellence. After significant consultation with both the psychiatric nursing community and relevant professionals, the decision was made to advance the Foundation's goal of operating as a true endowment fund. The RPNF is currently in the process of linking the accomplishment of its mission directly to endowment fund earnings thereby ensuring the viability of the Foundation into the future. The RPNF formally thanks the psychiatric nurses who have allowed their names to represent the 7 scholarships established over the past 24 years, and looks forward to its re-established slate of scholarships.

Congratulations to the Psychiatric Nursing Education 100 Years Conference Planning Committee on its highly successful pre-conference event held on May 5, 2022. Stay tuned for its full conference in 2023 celebrating the education of psychiatric nurses in Canada over the past 100 years.

Strategic Planning had been paused due to the pandemic however the RPNF will again engage in a formal planning exercise in the fall of 2022. We look forward to energetic discourse and determination of key performance indicators.

Economic pressures experienced by non-profits around the world as a result of the pandemic are a distinct reality for the RPNF as well. Please consider the RPNF and the work of psychiatric nurses in your 2022 giving. Donations can be made in a variety of user-friendly ways at <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/donations>.

Finally, the RPNF would like to acknowledge the unprecedented dedication of psychiatric nurses, and psychiatric nursing students through these trying times in our world. To those providing compassionate care

Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation
1854 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0G9



to individuals affected by mental health difficulties including COVID 19 and current global conflict, to those who have become ill themselves or lost friends and family, and finally to the generous people who support these individuals and teams through the RPNF, we see you and are indebted to your commitment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Gradidge

President, RPNF