



## 2024 President's Report

The year 2023 – 2024 has seen the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation, Inc. (RPNF) work diligently to further the foundation's growth and solidify governance steps that support a forward-moving foundation ready to take on the future!

We have just honoured Nurses' Week in Canada (May 6 – 12) with the slogan Changing Lives, Shaping Tomorrow. While so many in our world are experiencing isolation and disengagement, psychiatric nurses lean in to the experience of individuals, families and communities with empathy and skill, laying the foundation for growth and change. Our vision celebrates the role of psychiatric nurses contributing to advancements in mental health intervention, education, research and leadership, enriching lives today while shaping a better tomorrow.

Similarly, this month's Mental Health Awareness Week in Canada (May 13 – 19) embraced A Call to be Kind. We celebrate the achievements of the RPNF's 2023-2024 scholarships, grants, awards, bursary and medal recipients and the manner with which they embody the power of compassion and kindness within specialized skillsets and innovative practices.

The RPNF is a registered charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds to promote excellence in psychiatric nursing education, clinical practice, leadership and research. As of 2024, the RPNF has provided over \$70,000.00 in scholarships and grants (121 in total), 128 Awards of Excellence and 16 Bursaries, as well as Medals of Excellence. More details are available at [www.rpnf.ca](http://www.rpnf.ca) or by visiting our social media accounts <https://instagram.com/rpnfca>, <https://www.facebook.com/rpnfca> and <https://twitter.com/rpnfca>.

The year commenced with recruitment of the foundation's first two directors from outside of Manitoba, two highly skilled educators in psychiatric nursing with a broad range of clinical, academic and leadership backgrounds. The foundation was also incredibly fortunate to recruit two new executive members, both with extensive CV's. The contributions of these 4 enthusiastic directors within the context of the foundation's well-established board directorship have been invaluable and enrich the group's vision and capacity to reach further and reimagine the potential of the RPNF.

The board has worked tirelessly on its Strategic Plan throughout the year, meeting on five occasions outside of regular business meetings to take a fearless inventory of strengths, growth areas, opportunities and threats, renewing its Vision and Mission, while identifying and truly celebrating its Core Values of Excellence Engagement, Education and Ethical practice. As is often the case, this exercise has been a team-building experience for the board, generating renewed enthusiasm to reach higher.

The RPNF is also pleased to have completed and approved our Naming & Recognition of RPNF Scholarships, Awards & Entities Policy. This policy sets the framework for individuals or groups to name a scholarship, grant or award by making a donation to fund the entity in-perpetuity or for a period of time. The donation is invested in the foundation's pooled investment fund whose earnings then support the award on an ongoing basis. The operationalization of this policy allows the RPNF to assure that its scholarships, grants and awards can be offered without interruption, regardless of donation fluctuations, unexpected expenses or global events, while highlighting and promoting psychiatric nursing heroes through these named awards.

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



At the end of its first full year investing with ScotiaWealth under the foundation's new policy approved in 2023, the RPNF surpassed its budgeted earnings, reinforcing the importance of having re-examined its investment activities. While remaining conservative in its undertakings, the RPNF has been able to fulfil its charity disbursement requirements strategically without drawing from its operational budget or capital.

Particularly at this juncture where privacy and security of information are of prime importance, the directors of the board have moved into exclusive use of its GDrive for access and retrieval of all meeting materials. Group work such as Scholarship Review and Strategic Planning has also been facilitated using this site and tools. Further efforts to improve information storage and access practices are scheduled in the board's upcoming policy schedule.

The RPNF is pleased to report that social media, website access and newsletter communication have begun to make a measurable impact on foundation activities. Applications for scholarships and grants have increased and the RPNF contact list increases annually. Improving its reach and doubling down on communication was identified as a key focus in Strategic Planning and remains a priority going forward.

The RPNF's Scholarship Committee is a dedicated team of directors and volunteers spanning across Canada. Newly appointed co-chairs have spent countless hours over the year revisiting its processes to create lean pathways while maintaining its strong commitment to excellence. One of the projects undertaken this year is the review of the RPNF Indigenous Studies Grant, ensuring that the spirit of its purpose (committing to Calls to Action with the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada) is meaningfully fulfilled.

The work of the RPNF is wholly and completely funded by donations and fundraisers. Our donors are our lifeblood, and we appreciate each person and organization who gives. The foundation thanks all who have participated in its 50/50 raffles and merchandise sales throughout the year, and to all who have liked and shared its social media posts promoting these endeavours. The RPNF would like to also express its sincere gratitude to Dr. Beverley Hicks who donated over 20 of her books, Politics, Personalities & Persistence – One Hundred Years of Psychiatric Nursing Education in Manitoba to the RPNF as a fundraiser this year. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising activities in 2024-2025!

The RPNF invites you to join us in supporting and raising up the accomplishments and excellence of psychiatric nursing students and Registered Psychiatric Nurses in the upcoming year!

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Gradidge  
President, RPNF

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