



## 2023 RPNF President's Report

While the acute pressures of the COVID 19 Pandemic have eased and life begins slowly but surely to return to an altered state of normal, the world as we knew it has shifted and we navigate each day with new wisdom and awareness of how interconnected and interdependent we are globally. Psychiatric nurses feel the pulse of this physical, emotional and spiritual adjustment, along with the ripples it creates on the surface of heart and mind. It is what we do. As we reflect back on the past year and its changes to the mental health landscape, we would like to applaud the efforts of psychiatric nurses walking alongside individuals, families, systems and communities restoring balance and wellbeing.

2022-2023 has been a year of tremendous learning and growth for the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation! The RPNF offers Scholarships, Grants, Awards of Excellence and Medals of Excellence as well as a Bursary through Brandon University. To ensure ongoing sustainability of our scholarships, the RPNF established its renewed slate of all-national scholarship offerings, introducing the concept of grants as well to increase eligibility. As part of our grant slate, it was important to the Board that it move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. Accordingly, in keeping with recommendation # 24 from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the RPNF established its inaugural Indigenous Studies Grant. We are pleased to note that the new slate attracted approximately 50 scholarship applications this year.

While the scholarships committee worked tirelessly on the slate, reviewing and updating criteria, eligibility etc. over the summer, the entire board also met throughout July and August reviewing the RPNF investment profile. In consultation with the relevant professionals, the board ultimately revised and approved its Investment Policy, and transferred its portfolio from TD Wealth to Scotiabank McLeod to improve earnings which in turn funds our scholarships.

The RPNF is funded completely by donations and fundraising. Our first Meat Company Fundraiser took place in the fall of 2022 and we ran our annual 50 / 50 draw this spring. The board would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to all who have donated and supported our fundraisers. This year the board enhanced its efforts at attracting donations by offering merchandise gifts for donations throughout the fall, initiating donor drives broadened to include professional partners and groupings as well as participating in Giving Tuesday in November. Thank-you also to the House of Silver for sponsoring our Medals, and sincere gratitude to our 2022 donors whose contributions support the RPNF's scholarships, grants and awards:

Dr. Marlene Fitzsimmons	Dr. Annette Thorimbert Osted	Jen Fear	Dr. Michael Dyck
Darlene Henry	Ada Pearl Tinkess	Joel Prejet	Bev Gradidge
Dr. Beverley Hicks	Sharon Young	Dr. J. Renee Robinson	George Tipliski
Bonny Wynnobel	Danah Bellehumeur	Dr. Jane Karpa	Doreen Fey

The RPNF continues to work at increased visibility with stakeholders and the greater community. Since our 2022 Annual General Meeting six broadcast emails highlighting RPNF News & Promotions have been sent to our contacts. We are also pleased that our reach through social media (<https://www.facebook.com/rpnfca>, <https://www.instagram.com/rpnfca>, and <https://www.twitter.com/rpnfca>) and website ([www.rpnf.ca](http://www.rpnf.ca)) traffic is increasing.

Strategic Planning provides the roadmap for progress and future growth. The Board is proud of its accomplishments as a volunteer board throughout its history, and is currently engaged in a multiphase Strategic Planning exercise. The RPNF looks forward to sharing its refreshed Goals & Objectives for the future.

Additional tasks completed:

1. Transfer of RPNF historical data to its GDrive was finished, with many thanks to Past President Bonny Wynnobel for the hours dedicated to this task;
2. All RPNF financial transactions are now done electronically;
3. Budget format was revised allowing for retrospective variance review, with gratitude to Shalene Rochon and Danah Bellehumeur;
4. In Memoriam Donor Response Processes was formalized, with special thanks to Marycia Kruk.

The Board continues to work on:

1. The RPNF Naming & Recognition of Entities Policy and Procedures, which define naming practices, and will enable donors to make donations that fund scholarships and grants in perpetuity;
2. Attainment of Extra-Provincial Incorporation with British Columbia, to be followed by Alberta and Saskatchewan, allowing the RPNF to then do official business and fundraise across the western provinces.

Sincere congratulations to the Conference Planning Committee on holding its virtual conference, Celebrating 100 Years of Psychiatric Nursing Education & Practice, Our History – Our Future, May 1 – 3, 2023. This conference was the culmination of multiple years of dedicated work by a group of highly committed psychiatric nurses, several of whom are alumni of the RPNF. Two of our Directors, Mallory Schmitz (host) and Dr. Beverley Hicks (co-creator and participant in the documentary) were members of the Planning Committee while two additional Directors, Dana Naismith and Dr. Renee Robinson participated as presenter and documentary participant respectively. This event was a complete success and gathered psychiatric nurses from across western Canada together essentially “in one room”, sharing the rich history of psychiatric nursing education as well as highlighting state of the art research and practice by psychiatric nurses across the provinces.

The work of the RPNF would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of its board. I would like to take this opportunity to honour the RPNF Directors. Each of these individuals has given generously of their time, wisdom and creativity over the past year, and has committed to continued support of the foundation’s goals in a myriad of ways in the future. The Board would also like to sincerely thank Past Presidents, Bonny Wynnobel, Annette Osted and Marlene Fitzsimmons (who is also the RPNF’s founder). These women have availed themselves on countless occasions throughout the year for consultation and hands-on work, continuing to inspire excellence in all we do. To our partner organizations, the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba, the Association of Regulated

Nurses of Manitoba and Faculty from the Psychiatric Nursing Program at Brandon University, the collaboration and partnerships make us all stronger and more resilient.

And finally, the RPNF and the psychiatric nursing students and psychiatric nurses supported by the foundation thank YOU as the donors who make all of this possible. Prioritizing the RPNF in your giving plans is a way to contribute to excellence in mental health services. To donate, go to <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/donations> .

The RPNF looks forward to another exciting year. Let us keep you up-to-date. Join our mailing list at <https://www.rpnf.ca/support-the-foundation/be-on-our-mailing-list> .

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Gradidge  
President, RPNF