



2026 RPNF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a busy and energizing year for the Registered Psychiatric Nurses' Foundation, Inc. (RPNF). All 2025–2026 efforts have focused on advancing our vision to *foster excellence and celebrate successes in Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN) practice in Canada!* While 2024–2025 highlighted the strengthening of our governance structures, 2025–2026 has drilled down to extend our reach and improve the effectiveness of our communications.

The RPNF *provides scholarships, grants and awards to RPNs and psychiatric nursing students who are making a difference and inspiring innovation in practice—creating a better future for mental health and wellness* (RPNF Mission). Among multiple other areas of study, we were pleased this year to support critical doctoral-level research examining assumptions and practices enacted through trauma- and violence-informed approaches (TVIA) in nursing education. We also supported inquiry into the intersection of health, justice, and colonialism through Indigenous women's experiences, as well as educating psychiatric nursing students on exposure and reactions to microaggressions and skill-building in conflict resolution.

The foundation continues to extend its reach within and across provinces by promoting scholarships, grants, and awards to psychiatric nursing students and RPNs across Canada. As Colleges and Councils more fully embodied their role as regulatory bodies, the RPNF needed to identify alternate strategies to share information with our communities. This year, the RPNF Communications Committee was formally established and is chaired by Vice-President Matthew Parrenas. Communications work has been supported by volunteers Dana Naismith and Mercy Mastura (social media) and Director Anna Helewka (newsletter).

The RPNF launched its *RPNF Voices of the Board* series on social media <https://instagram.com/rpnfca> and <https://www.facebook.com/rpnfca>, highlighting the perspectives of RPNF Directors across Canada. Directors contribute a rich tapestry of geographic, professional, and personal experience—helping to keep our mission relevant and responsive.

Networking and connecting with psychiatric nursing students and RPNs across Canada remains a focal point—and one the foundation is eager to tackle. We are actively identifying opportunities, both in person and virtually, to intersect with stakeholders and partners. Whether attending psychiatric nursing association events, presenting to baccalaureate students in classrooms, or meeting with passionate stakeholders across Western provinces, the RPNF continues to raise its profile as a national entity.

The RPNF Education Network Planning Committee (led by Dr. Renee Robinson) established a strategy to connect with educators in each psychiatric nursing program across the country to disseminate information about scholarships to students and faculty, and to increase awareness of the grants and awards available after graduation. With these relationships established, the committee is also committed to reviewing scholarship and grant criteria to ensure fair evaluation of applications across programs and collaborating on how RPNF offerings can expand and adapt to reflect the range of psychiatric nursing education programs across provinces. These relational efforts create avenues for sharing information, learning about similarities and differences among programs, and building community among psychiatric nursing students and RPNs across Canada. We are stronger together.



As part of extending our reach and creating synergy among the provinces, RPNF donations further increased in 2025. Monthly donations through [RPNF Canada Helps](#) offer an easy “set-it-and-forget-it” option, simplifying donor budgeting and reducing effort. In alignment with the RPNF Action Plan to increase fundraising capacity and expand scholarships, grants, and awards, the RPNF engaged in fundraising training and is scheduled to provide full-board training in fall 2026. The RPNF Fall 50/50 was once again a success, offering a simple way for supporters to contribute to our scholarships, grants, and awards. The RPNF sincerely thanks every person and organization who contributed during 2025–2026 by following our website, social media, and communications, and by donating and participating in our fundraisers.

The RPNF Strategic Plan’s Action Plan, completed and approved in fall 2025, serves as a living roadmap that guides the foundation’s priorities while allowing flexibility to adapt as needed. Given the many ways to foster excellence and celebrate achievements in psychiatric nursing, the Action Plan helps focus efforts where they can have the greatest impact.

Artificial Intelligence has rapidly become part of everyday life—shaped by human design and enabled by non-human systems. In response, the RPNF is committed to addressing the ethical implications associated with its use – particularly in areas such as scholarship and grant applications - and to clearly communicating its position. The RPNF AI Statement has been developed, approved, and is available under [Responsibilities of Applicants](#) on the foundation’s website.

The RPNF is operated entirely by volunteers, with minimal contracted support for specialized services such as audits and website maintenance. Our Board of Directors <https://www.rpnf.ca/about-rpnf/board-of-directors/> who give generously of time, wisdom and passion remains central to advancing the foundation’s mission. Thanks to their stewardship and the generosity of donors, the RPNF is able to award scholarships, grants, and awards to psychiatric nursing students and RPNs each year. In addition to its Board, the RPNF extends sincere gratitude to its growing community of individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to support projects and initiatives!

Finally, the RPNF would like to recognize the psychiatric nursing students and RPNs who are accomplishing extraordinary things and contributing meaningfully to the profession of psychiatric nursing in Canada. These committed individuals relieve suffering, build resilience, create new knowledge, and raise the standard of mental health and addictions care in this country—and beyond.

On behalf of the RPNF Board of Directors, I would like to personally thank our donors, volunteers, and partners who join us in supporting this remarkable community.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Gradidge, retired psychiatric nurse
President, RPNF