



Issue 3 July, 2005

Real
Professional
Nurses

Calling all RPNs

You've come a long way, babe!

In the past, billboards would read, "You've come a long way Babe!" As 21st century RPNs emerge from Ontario colleges, we are seeing what the College of Nurses and the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario describe as one profession with two categories.

Within the 35,000-plus RPNs now registered in Ontario (OPSEU represents between 4,000 and 5,000), are well-trained professionals equipped to assume a variety of roles in new settings — Real Professional Nurses, with defined scopes of practice, qualified to provide competent professional nursing care in many roles. It is time to narrow the gap between what the College of Nurses maintains and what many of our employers allow.

Check the websites of the College of Nurses of Ontario (www.cno.org) and the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (www.rpnao.org)

There are many college upgrading courses you can take to expand your skills, knowledge and judgment to prepare for an exciting variety of job opportunities.

Get involved: In your work area, in your union, in your professional body!

As more jobs as administrators, educators and mentors become available in community health centres, doctors' offices, and public health units, and in traditional settings in collaboration with health care teams, be ready to say: "Ontario RPNs - Real Professional Nurses!" -**Pam Oelke, RPN, Local 152**

Watch for our survey

The RPN working committee met at OPSEU Head Office on June 9 to begin work on a membership survey. Michele Dawson Haber from OPSEU research met us to help with the survey and to tell us about other statistics OPSEU has gathered.

RPNs are a very diverse group. We work in many sectors. This survey will be an important tool for us to gather information for future planning. Please fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

If you do not receive one, ask your local president or highest ranking officer to forward one to you. We need as many responses as possible to get an accurate measure of where we all are at on our issues within OPSEU. Remember to check us out on the OPSEU website. -**Jill McIllwraith, RPN, Local 260**

RPN Caucus at the BPS Conference

A caucus will be held for RPN members at the Broader Public Service conference (Sept. 16 and 17 at the Delta Meadowvale in Mississauga) at the end of the session on Saturday afternoon. The location will be announced.

RPN Posters Still Available

Copies of the RPN poster are still available. You can see the poster on the RPN page of the OPSEU website <http://www.opseu.org/bps/health/rpn/rpnindex.htm>

To order copies, please contact Barb Linds at OPSEU Head Office 1 800 268-7376/416 443-8888, ext. 8203.