

# CONNECTION

The Newsletter of the Canadian Association of Nurse in AIDS Care (CANAC)

Winter 2002-2003 Vol. 6 - Issue 1



## President's Message

2002-2004  
CANAC  
President  
Brenda  
Done

At the CANAC Board meeting in Toronto in November, I presented to the

Board priorities and expectations for the organization and myself as I start my term as President. My top priority is COMMUNICATION. We have heard time and again that the members want to hear from us more often and they want to know what others in the organization are doing. To this end we are updating membership files, developing a new "logo" for CANAC, working to enhance regional involvement and opening two-way dialogue with all members.

I asked the Board to help develop a calendar for regular communication and they were off and running.

The regional representatives immediately decided they wanted a short newsletter out ASAP, to provide a brief introduction to the Board and its current work. As you will see in this edition the organization is in GREAT shape. The news from across the

country is very exciting with lots of regional initiatives. The conference planning is well under way with the expert guidance of Yvonne Lynch-Hill and her committee. The preliminary program looks fabulous. I hope you will all join us in Halifax in April.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Board Members whose terms have come to an end. To **Jill Riva Patey (Ontario rep.)**, **Sandy Gibson (Prairies rep.)** and **Maureen McLelland (Treasurer)**, the hard work and dedication you displayed throughout your tenure is a gold standard we all aspire to. Your legacy is an organization that is viable and well placed to take on new challenges. I thank each of you for your outstanding contributions to HIV/AIDS nursing on behalf of CANAC.

To **Andrew Johnson**, I want to extend my gratitude for your mentorship and patience as you guide me through the intricacies of taking on this new role. We welcome our new Board Members **Ted Birse (Prairies)**, **Hannah Cowen (Ontario)** and **Tracey Stevenson (Treasurer)**. The new Board Members each bring a unique perspective to the table and their enthusiasm is infectious. I am very excited about working with this dynamic group over the next two years.

Another welcome addition to our CANAC family is our new administrative coordinator, **Denise Lind**. Denise has a wealth of experience and creativity and I know that she will be an invaluable help as we move CANAC forward.

In the new year look for:

- Our new "logo" launch
- Quarterly Newsletters
- A revamped Website
- Conference News

and much, much more

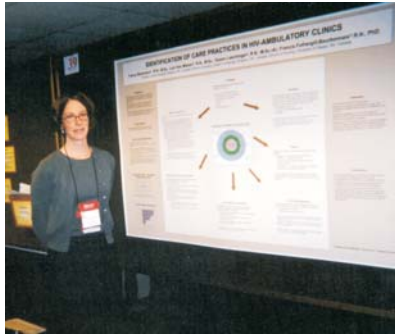
I hope you have all enjoyed a joyous holiday season,

Yours,  
Brenda

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# Passing the Buck!



*Tracey Stevenson during her poster session at the 2002 ANAC Conference in San Francisco*

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Tracey Stevenson as CANAC's new Treasurer. I have known Tracey since 1995, in my work with the Ontario HIV Outpatient Clinics group.

A resident of Kingston, Tracey has been focused on her graduate studies these past few years, and has successfully completed her Masters in Nursing program. She is eager and willing to become involved in this great organization...and so with great confidence I pass on the role to her. Welcome aboard Tracey.

I, on the other hand am in the midst of my Masters in Health Administration program at University of Toronto and have very little time for "extracurricular" fun with the CANAC Board. I do leave though, with many, many fond memories of all of the relationships I have built with many of you in these past 4 years as an active member of the Board...and I'm leaving on a high note.

CANAC's financial status has never been healthier, thanks in no small way to the hard work of our Conference Planning Committees these past four years. We have turned successive profits in Winnipeg (1999), Toronto (2000), Quebec City (2001) and again in Vancouver this past April 2002. This year's conference brought in nearly \$20,000 in profit. Without the hard work and dedication of our Conference Planning Committees, we would not be able to conduct the work of the Board, or its subcommittees. I hope to see the tradition continue in Halifax this Spring.

There are many great things ahead of us. As of fiscal year-end October 31, 2002, CANAC's assets total \$115,057. We are now in a position (finally) to retain some professional assistance to

maintain the day-to-day operations of the Association, by way of our contract with Denise Lind. This will pay-off in many ways; increased communication with the membership, more timely completion of our project work and easing the burden of an overworked volunteer Board. I encourage all of you to consider becoming actively involved in the work of the Association in the next few years. As nurses and leaders, we ought to be proud of what we have all helped to create and foster...as my Mother always told me, "to those whom much is given, much is expected". As members, we all have a responsibility to ensure that the Association continues to be productive and successful.

Best wishes to all of you in 2003. I look forward to seeing many of you again in Halifax.

*Maureen McLelland*

## Conference Update

We are very excited here in the Maritimes to host the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual CANAC conference**, The Tapestry of HIV Care. It is being held at the **Delta Halifax, April 13-15, 2003**. The program is in the final planning stages; stay tuned for the preliminary program and final call for abstracts will be out in January. You should have received the first call for **abstracts, (deadline February 3, 2003)**. If you did not it will be on the web site or email Yvonne at [yvonne.lynch-hill@cdha.nshealth.ca](mailto:yvonne.lynch-hill@cdha.nshealth.ca). Remember CAHR is also in Halifax at the World Trade Centre April 10 to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

**Renew your membership today and you could win a free conference registration!**

CANAC members who join or renew their membership by February 14, 2003 will have their name placed in a draw for a free conference registration. There will be one draw per region. So join today and hope to see you in Halifax!

*(Prize must be accepted as awarded and is non-transferable)*

## Dear CANAC,

*My name is Elaine Kauschinger, MS, ARNP-BC. I am faculty at the University of Miami School of Nursing and a member of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care - national and Miami chapters.*

*I have recently returned from our National Conference which was held in San Francisco. Although the weather was overcast and gloomy, there was indeed a very bright spot during this conference and it belonged to two members of CANAC - Susan Giles and Evanna Brennan.*

*I had the privilege of meeting them during our gala reception and during our conversation, it was very obvious that these two ladies were very committed to their profession of nursing. This impression was only reinforced when I attended their session of "Walking in Their Boots".*

*If I had only the opportunity to attend one session, their presentation no doubt would have been the one that I would have selected. Their dedication to their patients and community left those of us in attendance humbled. During their session they presented the very unique personalities of their patients and the challenges of their practice. Many of us were moved to tears - which is not a common occurrence for HIV/AIDS nurses.*

*It is a rare privilege to have the opportunity to meet such extraordinary individuals.*

*With warmest regards,  
Elaine D. Kauschinger, MS, ARNP-BC*

## Atlantic Report



In September we had our second annual ACHIVE (Atlantic Collaboration for HIV Education). It was held in Digby Pines, and was attended by members of the HIV teams from Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It was very successful and we hope to have more collaboration in the future.

Grace Getty and Margaret Dykeman have opened a community health care centre in Fredericton. Patti Daley, CANAC secretary is now volunteering

in a new health clinic for homeless people in Saint John. These clinics are certainly providing a needed service for these communities. Congratulations to these innovative nurses!

We are very proud of Consie Howley who graduated from the Nurse Practitioner Program at Memorial University Newfoundland. Seasons Greetings from the Maritimes.

## Quebec Regional Report

Hello, my name is Jean. I am the Quebec Regional Representative for CANAC/ACIIS.



Having graduated in 1986, I possess a good amount of experience in health care, both at hospitals and at community health centres, namely local community service centres (called CLSC in Quebec) in Downtown Quebec City, and

Outpost Nursing Stations in Northern Quebec. I enjoy innovative projects, as well as initiatives that depart from the beaten track. I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 1995. I have a fair knowledge of English and German as well.

Since January 2000, I have been working as a street nurse for MIELS-Québec (Mouvement d'information et d'entraide dans la lutte contre le SIDA), the Quebec City community organization specializing in HIV/AIDS care. The program I am involved in is directed towards PWAs living on the street, with mental illness, and/or involved in drug abuse or prostitution. I find it a wonderful 'outreach' care experience; a partnership with shelter workers, soup kitchens and various other community organizations. This program is also designed to support the workers of all these organizations in their effort to provide efficient care and follow-up to their patients. For example, in addition to providing individual support to the workers, I helped organize a free training session on HIV last October, which was attended by people working with street involved patients, as well as by community organizations' workers and volunteers. This training session was a success and we plan to provide one on Hepatitis C next March.

Furthermore, I am the Nurses Representative for Quebec's Programme national de mentorat sur le

VIH-SIDA, a province-wide mentorship program designed to support nurses inexperienced in HIV/AIDS care, by putting them in contact with mentor nurses having an expertise in a specialty field: research, clinical care, palliative care, people with drug abuse, mental health care, etc.. We are currently preparing the second HIV Nurses conference for nurses involved in that program. The conference will be held in Quebec City in June 2003.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jean Clermont-Drolet, R.N.  
MIELS-Québec  
281, Ch. Sainte-Foy  
Quebec City, QC G1R 1T5  
Phone: (418) 649-1720  
Fax: (418) 649-1256

## Ontario Regional Report



Special greetings to you Ontario members, whom I shall strive to serve well. Thank you for the opportunity.

I'm writing this on Friday of AIDS Awareness Week, and it has been a head-spinning week. Our multi disciplinary team at Oasis includes two full time and two relief nurses. Just since last Thursday nurses have: driven to Toronto for the Harm Reduction Conference (and my first CANAC\ACIIS board meeting); covered the medical side of the clinic at home; prepared for and participated in a Coffeehouse evening for the public and clients; prepared for, cooked for and cleaned up after a fundraising luncheon; organised and conducted non violent crisis training; responded to a serious client complaint; responded to the Romanow report's release; continued our usual clinics and workload, and will join World AIDS Day ceremonies on Sunday. What really has my head awirl is imagining this level of activity in one clinic multiplied by all the HIV nurses' work places. Bravo to you all!

One pledge from the Board of CANAC\ACIIS, and from the regional reps as individuals, is to communicate often with you. We need to hear about your plans, activities, challenges, criticisms and celebrations so we can share them with your fellow nurses. The soon -to- be- refreshed web site will have all our contact info in case you pass this newsletter on to a potential new member and forget to save it.

I'll see some of you at the London AIDS Education Day December 6, and lots of you in Halifax in April. Meanwhile, THINK CANAC\ACIIS! Write, e-mail, call me; ask a nurse to join or rejoin, pay your own dues, prepare an abstract for your presentations to the Halifax conference, plan your trip to beautiful Nova Scotia, and add to your holiday celebrations a time of celebration of yourself and your work.

*Till next time, Hannah*

## Prairies, NWT & Nunavut Regional Report



My name is Ted Birse and I am the new Regional Representative for the Prairies, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. I presently work at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, in the Northern Alberta HIV

Program, as a Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Practitioner. I look forward to connecting with existing members and hopefully interest nurses in any aspect of HIV care to become acquainted with CANAC/ACIIS. At the present time we have approximately 20 members in this region. As a Regional Representative, I am committed to improving the communication to the membership, recruiting new members and welcoming back past members. I am also looking for avenues that CANAC/ACIIS is able to support continuing education in your area. I welcome any input from members about CANAC/ACIIS as an organization and developments in HIV care in your area. You can contact me by email at [tbirse@cha.ab.ca](mailto:tbirse@cha.ab.ca)

# BC & Yukon Regional Report



It has been a while since the dust has settled from our CANAC Conference 2002 in Vancouver. That was also my last correspondence with the membership in BC/Yukon Region. The time gone by seems like a blur and it's hard to believe Christmas is just about upon us! It seems like only a short time ago that

we were packing up at the Coast Plaza and saying, "It was so nice to see you! See you next year in Halifax!" Well, the Call for Abstracts is out for the Eleventh Annual CANAC Conference and we're starting to gear up again.

For those of you who are new members or who don't know me very well, I have been the BC/Yukon Regional Board Rep for the past two years and have just started my second two-year term. I was appointed to this seat this year by acclamation, which is a fancy way of saying there was no one else who put their name forward. If you enjoy working on "big picture" stuff with a fun and committed group of nurses from across the country, consider a position on the CANAC Board of Directors. It is a great opportunity to learn from other HIV/AIDS nurses elsewhere through close working relationships and to contribute your expertise and talent in a way that really counts on a macro level. Think about it!

My first term was mostly taken up with helping to put together the Vancouver conference last April as Co-Chair and Conference Board Liaison. My day job however, is Director of Nursing for the Dr. Peter Centre and the next year will keep me busy getting ready to move into our brand new building next summer. The excitement is growing steadily!

What an exciting and busy year it has been, though. The Tenth Annual Conference, "Social Justice: The Essence of HIV/AIDS Nursing", was an event like CANAC has not seen before. We were able to put together an incredible conference planning committee, drawing from some of the amazing

talent here in BC. Everyone pitched in and ideas flowed abundantly. However, the first portion of the planning work was during the year of the 9/11 attack. This was a shocking setback which generated a huge amount of uncertainty. This, combined with our new conservative Liberal majority government in BC, set on holding the purse strings tighter than ever, looked like it would spell disaster for the conference. Luckily, the BC Centre for Excellence, through the efforts and quick thinking of Irene Goldstone, was able to infuse a generous amount of funding to keep us afloat and GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with Shire BioChem, through Lorne Fox, came through with solid support for CANAC as in past years. Eventually, more funders and sponsorships came forward and the conference ended up with a healthy surplus which the Association relies on for most of the annual operating costs in order to keep membership fees so low.

From the Safe Site Demo in the Downtown East Side to Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy on AIDS in Africa, it was three days that inspired tremendous pride in HIV/AIDS nursing and renewed our determination to continue the fight locally, nationally and internationally. The Opening Ceremonies began with the talent of the Vancouver Men's Chorus. Kathryn Gretsinger from CBC was the M.C. and led us through a stunning lineup of speakers, with Stephen Lewis giving the climactic feature Plenary, gripping the audience to the end of the evening program. A lively reception followed for people to mingle and meet new people or catch up with old friends. And of course, the west coast didn't let us down weather-wise with our very predictable forecast of (what else?) rain, rain, rain!

The theme of Social Justice and the immense work yet to be done in this direction could not have been better illustrated. The unconscionable plight of HIV/AIDS in Africa, the challenges of prison nursing, the aboriginal struggles with the stigma of this disease, the needs of women living with HIV/AIDS, the picture of the disease in Latin America and the Bahamas, and bringing Gay Men's issues back into focus as the face of the disease evolves to affect increasingly diverse groups of the population. All of this serves as a

reminder that HIV/AIDS is more than a physical disease. It is a global human rights issue and a call to action for nurses to lead the battle for social justice. The fight against discrimination and power imbalance has been a cornerstone throughout the history of this disease. Shirley Young of the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation spoke so eloquently at the Awards Banquet of the work that her son Peter had done during his battle with AIDS to dispel the fears and stigma in our society through the CBC Dr. Peter Diaries.

On another note, the conference attracted nurse leaders from far and wide: Bonnie Lantz, President, RNABC; Dr. Ginette Lemire Rodger, President, CNA; Dr. June Webber, Director of International Policy and Development, CNA; Dr. Lucy Bradley-Springer, President, American Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC); Lynette Best, Nursing Professional Practice Leader, Providence Health Care; Dr. Sally Thorne, Director, UBC School of Nursing; Anne Wyness, Associate Professor, UBC School of Nursing and Irene Goldstone, Associate Professor, UBC School of Nursing and Director of Professional Education and Care Evaluation, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

The Vancouver Conference attracted record numbers of new members, and a record number of the highest quality abstracts. The focus on injection drug problems during the conference drew much more media attention to CANAC than we have been used to in the past. This has been such a contentious issue for Vancouver and, as a major campaign issue, had a huge influence on the outcome of the civic election here last month.

Barney Hickey, who recently completed his Masters of Nursing at UBC, was bestowed the Award of Excellence for Exceptional Contribution to the Development of Nursing in HIV/AIDS Care at the CANAC Conference 2001 in Quebec and the RNABC Award of Excellence in Nursing Practice in 2002. Barney has served on both the CANAC and HIV/AIDS Legal Network Executive Boards. Barney was also nominated for the BC accolAIDS award this year and as if all that wasn't enough, he ran for City Counsel this fall. We were fortunate to have Barney's talent and energy on our conference planning committee where he co-chaired both the

Abstract Review Committee and the Awards Banquet Committee. Congratulations, Barney!

BC/Yukon Region managed to take an astounding three out of four CANAC Awards. This year's winner of the Jill Sullivan Award for Clinical Practice is my predecessor as BC/Yukon Regional Rep. and Conference 2002 Co-Chair, Lois Brummet. Lois retired from her position as CNS for the BC Centre for Excellence, Department of Professional Education and a reception was held for her at the Coast Plaza in June, where we had the chance to "return to the scene of the crime" at the former Conference venue. After so many accomplishments over the years, most recently pulling off one of the most successful CANAC conferences ever as the key organizer, and receiving this award, she is now polishing her golf skills and spending some well deserved time with husband Tony in Osoyoos. I don't think we've seen the last of Lois yet, though. Congratulations, Lois!

Jane McCall has filled Lois' former position and will be our HIV/AIDS nursing connection throughout BC. Jane has a hard act to follow! Congratulations and good luck in your new position, Jane!

Two other BC/Yukon members are recipients of CANAC Awards of Excellence this year. Judith Thompson, who retired last year from her position as Nursing Coordinator at the Dr. Peter Centre shortly after completing her Masters of Nursing, received the Award of Excellence for Exceptional Contribution to the Development of Nursing in HIV/AIDS Care. It's not the being there, it's the getting there, right Judith? Congratulations and happy gardening, Judith!

The other recipient of the Award of Excellence for Exceptional Contribution to the Development of Nursing in HIV/AIDS Care is Fiona Gold who is the Coordinator of the Provincial HIV & STD Prevention Street Nurse Program. Fiona is also Co-Chair of the Harm Reduction Action Society which, along with VANDU, coordinated the Safe Injection Site Demo Tours. Watch for Fiona in an up-coming issue of the Canadian Nurse. Congratulations, Fiona!

Remember to consider nominating one of your CANAC colleagues for an Award of Excellence.

Check the web site for details, nomination forms, deadlines and award categories. This is the best way to have the awesome work of HIV/AIDS nurses recognized and applauded for excellence by their peers.

Last year, I was funded by CANAC to attend the ANAC Annual Conference in November in Minneapolis. This was mainly to promote our Association and our Conference in April. It was an awesome experience, seeing the incredible work being undertaken by our American colleagues. The ANAC Conference was attended by several CANAC members this year in San Francisco and will be in New York in November, 2003. Evanna Brennan and Susan Giles, both long-standing CANAC members, presented their very popular and compelling work "Walking in Their Boots: Experiences of an Outreach Team in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside" in San Francisco last month and were as well received as in Vancouver in April. We were fortunate to have Evanna and Susan, both CANAC Award of Excellence recipients, on our conference planning team last year. Check out the [www.anacnet.org](http://www.anacnet.org) web site for details on next year's conference and Call for Abstracts.

We have also negotiated having the HIV/AIDS Certification Exam administered at the annual CANAC Conference at a special discounted ANAC membership rate for CANAC members. See the CANAC web site for more details or contact me as the CANAC ACRN Certification Exam Coordinator. The next exam will be offered in Halifax at the CANAC Conference in April.

I had the fortune of attending the CNA Biennial Convention in Toronto, "Diversity - Vision, Excellence and Commitment" in June. Two main streams were emphasized: Achieving Primary Health Care, some of which explored the role of the Nurse Practitioner and the progress toward establishing that role in Canada, and Quality Professional Practice Environments which looked at current nursing resource issues and how those impact the working environments of nurses. It was great to network with nurses in other areas of clinical work and feel that sense of solidarity with so many thousands of other Canadian nurses facing many of the same challenges. I also had the

chance to chat with incoming CNA President, Rob Calnan from Victoria in our very own region.

In July, Andrew Johnson, our Pres. (now Past Pres.), attended the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona and represented CANAC on the world stage. Way to go, Andrew! Next year, the XV International AIDS Conference will be held in Bangkok. It should be a good opportunity for BC/Yukon nurses to attend, being on the Pacific Rim. Start early to find funding.

Recently, CANAC was contacted by Health Canada, through CIDA to provide assistance in selecting an appropriate nursing expert in HIV/AIDS to provide training in HIV/AIDS care to health care workers in the islands of St. Kits & Nevis. This is a unique opportunity for CANAC and our members and demonstrates the high regard held by Canadian and international health agencies for Canadian HIV/AIDS nurses.

In September, I attended the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network Skills Building Workshop and AGM in Montreal. Another workshop was held by the Network in Vancouver in October Which I attended as well. Both of them were immensely informative and useful around injection drug use and establishing safe injection facilities, HIV/AIDS issues in prisons, and the great work the Network is doing through their International Program, such as research and advocacy on international patent laws and the impact on global access to treatment. I have followed the work of the Network for several years because it is extremely relevant to the work I do with marginalized populations. I have been a member of the Network for some time and the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation is an organizational member.

During the October workshop, I was approached by a couple of the Board members who informed me that one of the Board seats had been vacated unexpectedly and that they were interested in me considering filling it. So, one thing led to another and I accepted the Board position with the Network. It is very timely to begin this role as the Network Board has just started into its first comprehensive strategic planning process.

The BC Centre for Excellence and CANAC have had a partnership for several years, through the

generous collaborative support of several pharmaceuticals allowing CANAC to sponsor a special Interdisciplinary AIDS Care Educational Rounds on a semi-annual basis. These are scheduled on Thursday evenings and consist of two presentations with dinner in between. They are free for anyone interested. You don't have to be a CANAC member but it is a good idea anyway. RSVP is appreciated. For full details, contact Annette Frost at the BC Centre for Excellence, (604) 682-2344 ext. 62084. The last evening was very successful and featured current research on supervised consumption for IDU's by Thomas Kerr and Evan Wood from the BC Centre, followed after dinner by Fiona Gold from the Provincial Street Nurse Program and myself presenting our work on harm reduction and supervised injection practice implications for nurses. The next scheduled CANAC evening will be January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 on HIV and Nutrition with special emphasis on the role of nurses. I hope to see many of you there.

Don't we just rock here on the West Coast?!! So, after you've made your plans for Halifax in April, there will be time to start thinking about Toronto in 2004! Plan early! Then, after Toronto, ..... any ideas for 2005?

Oh, and of course, if you haven't already got your membership renewals in they were due November 1<sup>st</sup>. At the Board meeting last month, the Board decided to make a special offer to new and renewing members this year. All names of paid members will go into a draw for a free conference registration for Halifax in April. Cool, huh? But there is a deadline, so act fast! Membership does have its privileges! Have a look at the details in the CANAC Connector. I hope to see you soon at an upcoming CANAC event. Until next time, keep well!

R. Alan Wood, B.Sc.N., R.N.  
CANAC Board of Directors Regional  
Representative, BC/Yukon  
CANAC ACRN Certification Exam Coordinator  
Director of Nursing, Dr. Peter Centre  
Second Floor, 1056 Comox Street,  
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A7  
(604) 608-1874 ext. 62302  
Fax: (604) 608-4259  
email: alan@drpeter.org

## CANAC Goes International!

Responding to a request from Health Canada to assist in St. Kitts/Nevis with HIV/AIDS education, Terry Pook, CANAC member, was selected and spent two weeks on the islands presenting a train-the-trainer program to health care professionals.

It is exciting that Health Canada looked to CANAC to provide the expertise in HIV/AIDS education. We are hopeful that this is the beginning of new opportunities for CANAC nurses to extend their practice beyond our borders.

To learn about Terry's adventure, please see the insert with this newsletter or soon to be on the CANAC Website.

### *A few highlights of the ANAC Conference in San Francisco*



*CANAC nurses can do anything: driving a cable car (Fran Clark, London Ont.)*



*CANAC nurses playing tourist in San Francisco*