



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2014-15

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Independent Business Specialty Interest Group (IB SIG)

To be held Thursday October 29, 2015

IBSIG has been busy during the 2014-15 period advocating for RPNs in Independent Business at events and through publications. Below is a list of accomplishments.

IBSIG Membership

- Grew to over 125 members. Some members forget to renew and do so later in year; therefore we are working on bringing them back into the fold via an email reminder to renew.
- Help us grow our membership. Please outreach to your RPN friends whom you know are sole proprietors and/or in business, and tell them about this group.

IBSIG Executive Committee

- Created and filled new Executive Committee positions in 2015 (MAL: Member at Large, Newsletter/Writer Coordinator). We need an event Coordinator and Website Assistant.

Promotional Materials

- Conference Signage to direct all registrants to IBSIG speaker/event at 10:00hrs if interested [FREE Brendan Gray LLP Health Law Counsel, Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario]
- IB Promo Flyer "Membership Benefits" mailed end of March to all members Blue/Yellow
- "Save the Date" AGM Email Notification to members (September 2015)
- AGM Invitation Postcard mailed to current/past members (September 2015)
- Ad#1 about Joining IBSIG in RPNAO Journal Summer Issue 1/2 page (June 2015)
- Ad#2 about IBSIG AGM in RPNAO Journal Fall Issue 1/2 page (August 2015)
- IB SIG presence advertised on RPNAO website and in Newsletter
- Practical Nurse (PN) Student Flyer "Remember Your Options When Graduating" (reprint & distribution)
- Membership registration BUTTON on www.ibsig.ca goes to RPNAO online membership form
- Promotion through Manny Moniz of Superior Medical Ltd. "Mine Your Own Business" and website
- True Cash Card: Annual registration card continues to have at the bottom that you are a member of IB SIG

Website Resources and Public Information

- Website continues to be maintained for IBSIG members and the public
- **"Members-Only"** Section of our website (right side panel, different headings) holds your:
 - o By-Laws, Steps to Run Business, Ministry/Business Links, Board members
 - o Request for Action Paper June 2014 updated 2015 placed on the Advocacy/Issues page also on FAQ page and sent to M. Dechter at Health Achieve (was deputy Minister of Health); Brendan Gray LLP, and Maxime Bernier MP to discuss
 - o A 'one page' of Independent/Sole Proprietor Organization Links on member resources/other <http://ibsig.ca/member-resources/rpn-practice-resources/>
 - o AGM Resources (file downloads) <http://ibsig.ca/news-and-networking/agm-resources/>
 - o Membership list updated monthly/mid-month – find members in your area and meet/greet! <http://ibsig.ca/news-and-networking/agm-resources/>
 - o Accomplishments are posted on the Accomplishments page and the AGM Resource page <http://ibsig.ca/news-and-networking/ib-sig-accomplishments/>

- “Public” Section of our website www.ibsig.ca and/or www.ibsig-rpnao.ca to inform the public on the issues around RPNs running an Independent Business and how they can help bring about changes to government, insurance companies
 - o Revised photo slideshow with up to date advertising banner for IBSIG AGM

Information/Education/Networking Activities

- Executive members attended **Queen’s Park RPNAO lunch with MPs** to advocate for Independent Business nurses and what is happening for our future
- Attended various conferences and set up a booth at:
 - o IBSIG AGM, October 2014
 - o RPNAO AGM, October 2014
 - o Kitchener/Waterloo NEFCA, April 2015
 - o Ottawa Heather Loppe, May 2015
 - o Board mid-term meeting held via email and teleconference(s) April/May and August/September – prepare for AGM September 2014
- Held **Annual General Meeting** October 2014 Alliston, ON and had speakers present on following topics:
 - o Accounting/Investing when being a Sole Proprietor, by Oscar Torres, CPA, CA, LPA, Senior Manager, Bateman MacKay LLP
 - o Independent Practice (IB) document changes/additions and clarification to the new CNO document released in 2012 by Myra Kreick of CNO

Advocacy Initiatives

- **Community Colleges PN Program Coordinators:** Made contacts with PN program coordinators at various community colleges; spoke in the Spring/Fall to graduating classes at George Brown and Seneca College about IB SIG raising awareness of nurses in independent business with peers.
- **Position Paper:** IBSIG Executive, president Catherine Arnott and PR Janette Strong updated **RPNs “Request For Action” position paper re: RPNs in Independent Business** with the aim of having definitions of RPNs and their scope of practice expanded in federal and provincial legislation with the goal of having recognition and standing for coverage by private health insurance plans for our services. They contacted, briefly discussed, and sent position paper to various health professionals and advocates and will follow-up in 2015-2016.
- **RPNAO:**
 - o Continues to advertise all the SIG groups in their “getting to know us” The Newsletter for RPNAO Members under Member Benefits and Special Interests
 - o IB SIG continues to work with RPNAO to help advance the work and recognition of RPNs as nurses in Independent Business throughout Ontario
 - o IB SIG placed two advertisements in RPNAO Journal Magazine June/September 2015 towards raising awareness to all RPNs who may be independently running their own nursing business to consider the benefits of being a member of our organization, and attending IBSIG AGM October 29th
- **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:** If you are interested in being a provider, you may need to contact individual “Band” offices or the Chiefs of Ontario to enquire about providing nursing services in your area
 - o **1st Nations Reserves:** (oversee health/non-insured programs) in Ottawa Clair Goldy Regional Officer, Home & Community Care 613-952-6023 or her assist Louise Nadeau 613-952-8867 are educating me regarding: Registration/Services offered by our IB Nurses – read your emails in the future and www.ibsig.ca
 - o **SOADI:** The Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care for the development, and enhancement of programs and services focusing on the education, prevention, and management of diabetes in Aboriginal communities, both on and off-reserve. The high prevalence of diabetes in Aboriginal society has placed it among the top health priorities
 - o **Ontario Region Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada:** 8th Floor 25 St. Clair Avenue East Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2 Tel: (416) 973-6234 Fax: (416) 954-6329.
- **Canadian Anti-spam Law (CASL)** mandated to all who email in bulk that we send a letter of consent to all members who were to return their agreed/consent to our organization so that we would be legally able to communicate and connect with members via email. There are still members who have not fulfilled this requirement and may find themselves ‘out of the loop’ [Contact membership@ibsig.ca for the consent form].

Our registration on RPNAO website states clearly that we communicate via email and our By-laws state the same. Thus, know, as a member of IB SIG you are agreeing for us to use your email address and receive educational independent business and association information.

New Initiatives Supporting Independent Business

- Manny Moniz of Superior Medical Ltd. Offers his experience and expertise to “all” Nurses engaging in independent business and using Complementary Therapies. “Mine Your Own Business”. Call him 416-635-9797 for assistance with latest technology, equipment and assistance if needed, in importing products you may need.

E-News Flash

- **Addressed various topics:** Benefits of Being a Member; How do I advertise my business?; What CNO has to say about Soliciting ‘Committed Clients’ and Phone Message Setup; Alternative Therapies; Member spotlights, and more.
- **Commercial General Insurance:** Be aware, Protect Yourself and Your Business with Professional Liability and General (Commercial) Liability. As a sole proprietor and running an independent nursing practice/business you are mandated to have business insurance. Why? Protect your business in the event you are sued; cover claims against your business for injury or property damage, i.e. if a customer is injured at your location, or if an employee damages property at a client’s site. Without CGL you leave yourself and company vulnerable to lawsuits that could have a devastating impact on your business.