



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2016-17

## Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Independent Business Specialty Interest Group (IBSIG)

To be held Thursday, September 28, 2017 | 0800 – 12:30

IBSIG has been busy during the 2016-17 period mentoring members and advocating for RPNs in Independent Business at events and through publications. Below is a list of accomplishments.

### IBSIG MEMBERSHIP

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- **Membership Growth:** IBSIG grew to over 120 members. Some members forget to renew and did so later in year. Please outreach to your RPN friends whom you know are sole proprietors and/or in business, and tell them about this group. Help us grow our membership!

### IBSIG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- **Available Positions:** IBSIG hopes to fill the Secretary, Event Coordinator and Marketing/Website Assistant positions. Please consider offering your skills. More information here: <http://ibsig.ca/join-ib-sig/board-opportunities>

### PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- **Season's Greeting:** IBSIG Board wrapped up the 2016 year by posting and emailed a Christmas Greeting 'photo collage' greeting to members <http://ibsig.ca/seasons-greetings> (Dec 2016)
- **Registered Trademarking of "EntrepreNURSEship":** Trademarking was completed and has now been "registered": EntrepreNURSEship®
- **IBSIG Facebook Page:** There continues to be occasional posts made to <https://www.facebook.com/IBSIG>. Additional help is needed (see Executive Positions above) to expand this social media channel with more regular posts.
- **Spotlight Promotion to Members:** "Let your Business be the Spotlight" is a section on the website where members can post their story and become part of the Faces of EntrepreNURSEship® Poster. **We need 10 IBSIG members to participate before Poster#2 can be printed.** Visit <http://ibsig.ca/join-ib-sig/membership-benefits/> and <http://ibsig.ca/member-spotlights/> for more details and notify Membership if you'd like to participate.
- **IBSIG AGM & Education Session Promotion:** Great efforts are being made to notify a broad audience about the annual FREE Education Session. Please support our group and make an effort to attend. It is a great way to meet one another, and learn about important topics that affect nurses in independent business. It is FREE to all members and guests who wish to become a member. 2017 AGM is in Ottawa September 27 at the Ottawa Delta (held concurrently with RPNAO event). <http://ibsig.ca/agm/>
  - o **AGM Banner Ads:** Created "Save the Date" and "AGM Notification" and have been posted on IBSIG website and emailed to members (June 2017): [http://ibsig.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/AGM\\_2017\\_SaveTheDate.jpg](http://ibsig.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/AGM_2017_SaveTheDate.jpg)
  - o **Education Session Signage at RPNAO:** Created and printed for handout at RPNAO Registration table to advertise FREE education session at 10:00hrs, and to direct participants to the room
  - o **AGM & Education Session on RPNAO Online Itinerary:** Advertised IBSIG AGM and FREE Education Session and speaker information on the RPNAO website: <https://www.rpnao.org/content/2017-agm-and-conference-schedule>
  - o **AGM page on IBSIG Website:** Advertised all details of the IBSIG AGM and Education Session. Promoted the 2017 theme: EntrepreNURSEship®: Navigating Your Success. <http://ibsig.ca/agm/> where panel members discuss and take questions about business start-up, city licensing, registration, taxation, business promotion without conflict of interest as a nurse, etc.
  - o **RPNAO Journal Ad:** Promoted IBSIG AGM in the RPNAO Journal in the Summer edition (June 2017)
  - o **AGM Sponsorship Promotion:** Circulated a Sponsorship Letter resulting in several financial Gold and Silver level AGM sponsors for 2017. We are grateful to Superior Medical Ltd., KW Insurance, CBON – Allpresan and Visiting Angels. Funds go toward defraying the cost of holding and promoting the FREE event to you (Thank you!). IBSIG Executive members also called businesses to donate prizes and give-aways for AGM attendees. A full list of sponsors and donors are on IBSIG website: <http://ibsig.ca/agm>. Corporate and small business genericity is greatly appreciated.

## INFORMATION/EDUCATION/NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

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- **RPNAO Queen's Park Lunch:** IBSIG President, Catherine Arnott and Member at Large, Linda Heber attended Queen's Park RPNAO lunch with MPs to advocate for nurses in independent business. Your President had 8 minutes with The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health & Long Term Care to discuss our Request for Action issues that affect nurses and clients. [see Advocacy Initiatives below for more details about Request for Action].
- **Conference Exhibit Table:** IBSIG attended various conferences and set up an exhibit table to introduce/educate RPNs about IBSIG:
  - o Ruth Ruttan Footcare Conference, Woodbridge, Oct 2016
  - o IBSIG AGM, Toronto, Oct 2016
  - o RPNAO AGM, Toronto, Oct 2016
  - o Professional Development Foot Care Conference, CPC Healthcare Inc., London, March 2017
  - o Info Session: Attended presentation by IBSIG member Magda Zecevic, and networked with residents of McCowan Retirement Residence, March 22 2017
  - o NEFCA Education Dayz, Kitchener/Waterloo, April 2017
  - o Footnotes 2017, Ottawa, May 2017
  - o CAFCN New Brunswick, May 2017
- **IBSIG Mid-Term Meeting:** IBSIG held mid-term Executive Committee meeting via email and teleconference(s) in April involving VP, Public Relations and President online to discuss IBSIG goals, set priorities, and prepare for AGM Sept 2017.

## IBSIG MEET & GREETS

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- **President Outreach with Members:** As IBSIG President travelled and attended various meetings in Ontario, she met with members who were available at the time, chatted, caught up on their business and learned who they were both professionally and personally: Kitchener, Ottawa, Woodbridge, London, Toronto-GTA, New Brunswick

## ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

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- **Request for Action, IBSIG Position Paper:** IBSIG continues to advocate on behalf of nurses in independent business to educate all levels of government and other stakeholders in the following ways:
  - o Mail and email distribution of the Request for Action position paper: <http://ibsig.ca/consumer-resources/request-for-action>
  - o Presentation (with PowerPoint slides) at the NEFCA conference in April 2017 by Catherine Arnott
  - o Attendance at the RPN/MPP luncheon and briefing at Queen's Park in spring 2017 by IBSIG Executive where President Catherine Arnott was able catch the attention of MPP France Gélinas for a brief discussion about Request for Action and was subsequently introduced to Health Minister Eric Hoskins to give him a brief overview of the issues
  - o Meeting with Minister Hoskin's Policy Advisor Mr. Ian Chesney on July 24, 2017 by IBSIG Executive to go over the details of a Briefing Note prepared by IBSIG to outline the 4 main needs:
    1. Legislation: Change the Nursing Act 1991 to specify that "nursing is one profession" to be consistent with CNO practice standards and the Medical List of Practitioners list pertaining to Income Tax Act so that "Nurses" is a heading with individual titles bulleted (e.g. LPN, RPN, NP, RN)
    2. Scope of Practice: Change OHIP program and Revenue Canada's Medical Expense Guide to acknowledge and encourage nurses to use their full scope of practice as is stated in the Nursing Act: "The promotion of health and the assessment of, the provision of care for, and the treatment of, health conditions by supportive, preventive, therapeutic, palliative and rehabilitative means in order to attain or maintain optimal function." This includes health promotion and illness prevention.
    3. Allied Health Professionals: Require health insurance companies to include Nurses in their list of eligible allied health professionals
    4. Practice Locations: Require LHINS/CCACs to retain services of nurses regardless of their size of business so that sole proprietors have a level playing field rather than favouring large nursing orgs. As well, require health insurance companies to recognize nursing services provided outside the home (in private practice locations).
  - o Policy Advisor Mr. Ian Chesney confirmed he will consider our needs and pursue solutions where possible; including reaching out to the Minister of Finance to improve the listing of Nurses in the Income Tax List of Medical Practitioners.
- **CNA (Ottawa):** IBSIG President met with Canadian Nurses Association, Ottawa for education/advice with regard to lobbying the MOHLTC to meet our goals outlined in IBSIG's Request for Action. CNA acknowledged that we are connecting with the right levels of government to discuss this initiative. We also discussed whether CNA is still considering to expand its membership of just RNs to include RPNs. They confirmed that adding "all nurses" is still on their agenda to explore.

- **Presentations to Community College PNs:** President and Member at Large spoke in the spring to nurse graduates at George Brown College and Seneca College about IBSIG raising awareness of nurses in independent business with peers.
- **IBSIG Collaboration with RPNAO:**
  - o RPNAO continues to advertise all the Specialty Interest Groups (SIGs) in their “getting to know us” The Newsletter for RPNAO Members under Member Benefits and Special Interests
  - o IBSIG placed advertisements in RPNAO Journal Magazine to raise awareness of all RPNs about IBSIG
  - o IBSIG continues to work with RPNAO to help advance the work and recognition of RPNs as nurses in Independent Business throughout Ontario
- **RPNs Scope of Practice:** IBSIG acknowledges and is grateful for RPNAO’s efforts to advocate for RPNs’ Scope of Practice by asking the Ontario government for changes to outdated laws and regulations (particularly the Nursing Act) so that RPNs can practice in accordance with their current knowledge, skills and competencies to improve patients’ access to quality health care; in particular, to enhance the patient experience, improve population health, reduce costs, and improve the work life of nurses.

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## SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

- **IBSIG Member Phone Call Outreach:** IBSIG Executive at times, will call members to clarify and update their info getting to know them individually so as to assist them in their individual businesses.
- **Offer of support:** Manny Moniz, a Director with CBON – Allpresan, offers his experience and expertise to all nurses engaging in independent business and using complementary therapies. Call him 647-293-5820 for assistance with latest products.
- **Specialized Business Insurance:** Catherine Arnott worked with Gore Mutual through KW Insurance Brokers to develop and obtain a package of business insurance to meet the needs of nurses in independent business. The policy is called “Nurses Commercial Insurance Program”. For more information, contact our AGM sponsor: <http://www.kwbroker.ca>

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## NEWS UPDATES

- **Canadian Anti-Spam Law (CASL):** A reminder to all who email in bulk. You must seek consent from recipients to be on a bulk email list. IBSIG 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.
- **Commercial General Insurance:** A reminder to all IBSIG members: 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. See additional information Nurses Commercial Insurance Program under “Supporting Independent Business”.
- **Medical Equipment/Device Sterilization:** A reminder that PIDAC and Public Health of Ontario provides detailed information on how to safely sterilize instruments to protect clients from infection. More information: [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PIDAC\\_Cleaning\\_Disinfection\\_and\\_Sterilization\\_2013.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/PIDAC_Cleaning_Disinfection_and_Sterilization_2013.pdf)

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## WEBSITE RESOURCES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

- **IBSIG Website Revisions:** The IBSIG website content continues to be updated for IBSIG members and the public.
- **“Public” Side of IBSIG website:** [www.ibsig.ca](http://www.ibsig.ca) and/or <http://www.ibsig-rpnao.ca> continues to be updated to inform members of important issues, and the public about RPNs running an Independent Business. Be sure to check back as new information is posted.