



ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019-20

For the Virtual General Meeting (AGM) of the
Independent Business Specialty Interest Group (IBSIG)

Thursday October 29th, 2020

IBSIG has been busy during the 2019-20 period mentoring members and advocating for RPNs in Independent Business at events during the 1st Quarter until Covid-19 descended upon us. At that time, we continued educating and connecting through Social Media – Facebook, LinkedIn and our website ibsig.ca, publishing twice-weekly E-News Blasts via Mail Chimp.

IBSIG MEMBERSHIP

- **Membership Growth:** currently, IBSIG sits shy of 200 members. Please outreach to your RPN friends whom you know are sole proprietors or in business, and help us move to over the peak!

IBSIG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – LEADERSHIP ROLES

- **Available Positions:** Leadership roles are a large part of what we as Nurses and with WeRPN need to participate in to grow. Consider offering your skills. IBSIG is seeking to fill the Event Coordinator and Marketing/Website Assistant positions along with others. More information here: <http://ibsig.ca/join-ib-sig/board-opportunities>

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

- **IBSIG President discussed/met with the Canadian Nurses Association in Ottawa to collaborate.**

The issue: currently, the [List of Authorized Medical Practitioners](#) includes “licensed or registered practical nurse” (under L) and “registered nurse (including nurse practitioners)” (under R). When one goes through the list in alphabetical order to find “nurse practitioner” (under N) or “registered practical nurse” (under R) or “registered psychiatric nurse” (under R), they do not appear. The current issue that we are seeing is that this is occasionally resulting in expenses related to services performed by various nursing categories deemed ineligible for a Medical Expense Tax Credit, and health insurance companies (who take cues from this list) to deny reimbursement for services as they can’t find the appropriate nursing type in the current list when looking at it in alphabetical order. In other words, the list does not clearly list the profession of “Nurse” under “N” with a breakdown of the various categories. Instead, it separates the nurse category, merging sub-categories with others. Merging these sub-categories can make it difficult to find, for example, *Registered Practical Nurses* (as they are under R and one might be searching under N).

Proposed Solution: create a “nurse” category as the title and underneath a subheading for each classification of nurse that already exists: *licensed practical nurse, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, registered practical nurse and registered psychiatric nurse*. This will make it easier to find all nursing categories and help those claiming the Medical Expense Tax Credit be deemed eligible.

- **Bottom line:** Nurses are already on the *List of Authorized Medical Practitioners*; however, we need the wording and format improved.

The good-news story: the CNA, which has had RNs only since its founding in 1908, are inclusive of RPNs/LPNs. We are pleased with this change. This is a huge ship to turn around when it comes to recognition for RPNs/LPNs and by insurance companies.

NEW WEBSITE: Thank you to Sinan, owner of Dream Concepts based out of Pickering, ON, who will assist all members in developing their own website for an excellent price Dreamconcepts.ca, and Dianne Scott, our Membership person, has spent countless hours entering all 200 members contact info into our new **FIND A NURSE** section, therefore, overwhelming thanks for all this diligent work. We also have an interactive Calendar of Events for you to peruse; however, Covid-19 has left it empty for now other than the CMDR workshop through **CPC Healthcare in London**, which is going forward on October 3rd.

New Website benefits:

- Up to date features and functionality _ **FIND A NURSE!**
- Professional updated member listings and protected members-only content – **MEMBER PERSONALIZED LOGIN**
- **Website Content:** continues to be updated as information becomes available to inform members of important issues, and the public about RPNs running an Independent Business www.ibsig.ca.

Research Project “Ontario’s Health Insurance Industry and the Treatment of IB Nurse Service Claims”: by Janette Strong, our PR

Contacted Joan Weir of the Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association (CLHIA), who previously agreed to organize a teleconference with lead Canadian Health Insurance providers to address Executive action points in our paper, “Summary Report: The Health Insurance Industry, Nursing & Independent Business RPNs in Ontario.” She will now be forwarding our IBSIG contact information to the appropriate person in each health insurance company in order to address our concerns more directly.

Ongoing outreach with health insurance companies: Awaiting further outreach from health insurance companies contacts to us via Joan Weir at CLHIA to discuss our next steps with a goal to expanding nursing coverage offerings to include more RPN IB nurses’ services.

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:

- Distribute the Request for Action position paper: <http://ibsig.ca/consumer-resources/request-for-action> (adding a clear message that the thoughts therein are the ideas of IBSIG research.
- On-going contact with local, provincial and federal government representatives and insurance company contacts to further IBSIG’s interests in **legislation changes, acknowledgement of nurses’ scope of practice, inclusion of nurses as an allied health professional and having a level playing field with regard to eligible practice locations.**
- **Presentations to Community College PNs:** President, Vice President and Member at Large continue to speak to nurse graduates at the various Colleges in Ontario about IBSIG raising awareness of nurses in independent business with peers. Through phone calls and Social, Media IBSIG has contacted various schools, e.g. George Brown, Seneca and Centennial, asking that we advertise through them, especially as Covid-19 has placed a challenge to offer one on one presentations.
- **IBSIG Collaboration with WeRPN:**
 - WeRPN continues to advertise all the Specialty Interest Groups (SIGs) in their “Getting to Know Us,” the newsletter for WeRPN Members under Member Benefits and Special Interests.
 - IBSIG continues to place advertisements in WeRPN Journal Magazine to raise awareness of all RPNs about IBSIG.
 - IBSIG continues to work with WeRPN to help advance the work and recognition of RPNs as nurses in Independent Business throughout Ontario.

- IBSIG continues to liaise with WeRPN on implementing best practices regarding SIG administration (record keeping, bylaws, meeting guidelines, etc.) and is grateful for WeRPN's excellent leadership and professional advice.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Season's Greeting:** IBSIG Board wrapped up the 2019 year by posting and emailing a Christmas Greeting to members <http://ibsig.ca/seasons-greetings>.
- **Registered Trademarking:** Registered trademarking of the word "EntrepreNURSEship®" was completed (fall 2017).
- **IBSIG Facebook Page:** During Covid-19, IBSIG's President learned to use Facebook posts for greater reach, communication and support of the nursing community. Through meme/social post generation and information-sharing, we were able to lift spirits and keep more members up to date. <https://www.facebook.com/IBSIG>.
- **Heather Hauka, Vice President, jumped in and initiated a LinkedIn presence, which we hope to grow and utilize.**

For the first time, email blasts were sent to IBSIG membership via Mail Chimp. Among supports shared were "basket of possible Therapy offerings" in your business and education options during these 6 months of Covid-19 restrictions and conference cancellation.

- Manny Moniz: **conducted numerous Zoom workshops FREE**
- Sterilization Protocol and Autoclaves became a timely topic, and IBSIG has shared relevant guidance as we receive it.
- Additional help is needed (see Executive Positions above) to expand our social media channels with regular content.
- **AGM page on IBSIG Website:** Advertises all details of the IBSIG AGM and Education Session on the website <http://ibsig.ca/agm/>. We continue to promote the theme: "*EntrepreNURSEship®: Leading the Way,*" where panel members discuss and take questions about methods of connecting with local business and health care representatives to leverage their support in promoting your business, as well as topics of business start-up, city licensing, registration, taxation, business promotion without conflict of interest as a nurse, etc.

Mentorship via phone requests and emails: concerning the "how-to" of being in Independent Business took place with a few being multiple discussions and personally meeting at conferences.

INFORMATION/EDUCATION/NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

IBSIG MID-TERM MEETING: IBSIG HELD MID-TERM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM JULY 5TH, 2020, AND FACE TO FACE [BEHIND MASKS] IN LONDON OCTOBER 2ND, 2020 TO DISCUSS IBSIG GOALS, SET PRIORITIES, AND PREPARE FOR 2020 AGM AND THE 2021 YEAR.SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

- Manny Moniz, Managing Director of Manny Moniz.com, offers his experience and expertise to all nurses engaging in Independent Business
- **IBSIG Member Phone Call Outreach:** IBSIG Executive continues to call members to clarify and update their info and get to know them individually to offer advice and a sounding board for business matters.
- Specialized CGL – Commercial General Insurance [must have business insurance] KW Insurance Brokers, Louise Engler meets the needs of nurses who are Sole Proprietors. For more information, contact <http://www.kwbroker.ca>