

Summer

2022

Issue #5

newsletter)))

SHOUT OUT TO A COLLEAGUE



Stephanie Sarmiento, our very own Region 7 Social Media Executive Network Officer, worked with the Decent Work and Health Network to develop a report called ***Prescriptions for a Healthy Recovery: Decent Work for All***. This report highlights how precarious work is a health hazard and key social determinant of health, and advocates for paid sick days and other healthy public policies during the pandemic and beyond. It's also been endorsed and amplified by other associations including the Ontario Nurses' Association, and the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, and the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Read more about it here:

Decent Work & Health page: <https://www.decentworkandhealth.org/about>

Report: https://www.decentworkandhealth.org/full_report

Endorsement page: https://www.decentworkandhealth.org/endorse_report

RNAO tweet: <https://twitter.com/RNAO/status/1513512522703376386>

In This Issue

Let's Celebrate Nurses with a Shout-Out!

Good News about COVID19

Did you know?

RNAO's Annual General Meeting June 9-11, 2022

Let's go to the Art Gallery

Upcoming Events

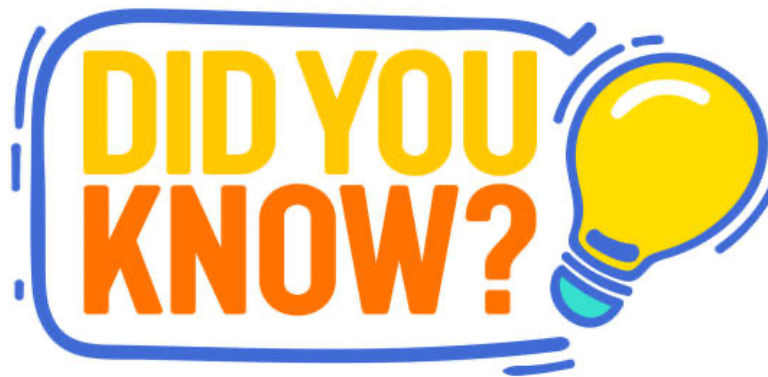
Good News about COVID-19 from Health Canada



Together, 2 antiviral drugs, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (brand name **Pfizer-Paxlovid™**), are authorized to treat symptomatic adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of serious illness, including hospitalization or death. This is the first authorized COVID-19 treatment that can be taken orally at home. Learn more about the factors that health professionals consider when prescribing **Paxlovid** [here](#).

Evusheld is an option for people who are immunocompromised and whose immune system is unable to respond adequately to COVID-19 vaccination as well as for people for whom vaccination is not recommended. In fact, it's the first treatment being used to prevent COVID-19 in people 12 years of age or older who weigh at least 40 kg with such conditions.

Remdesivir is now approved for treating COVID-19 in an outpatient setting. When administered within 7 days of symptoms appearing, remdesivir was demonstrated to reduce the need to hospitalize patients who are at high risk of developing severe COVID-19.



- RNAO had a total of 48,383 Members at the end of 2021!
- Telehealth Ontario has been renamed Health Connect Ontario.
 - Health Connect Ontario is a free service where callers can:
 - Speak to or chat online with a registered nurse
 - Get help with finding a primary care provider if they don't have one
 - Get an initial assessment and health advice
 - Use a symptom assessment tool to understand their health concerns and how to access care
 - Get connected to mental health and addictions services
 - Find local health services, such as home and community care or caregiver support
 - Get connected to a specialized health professional if they have concerns about food and healthy eating, breastfeeding or how to quit smoking
 - Get general guidance through their health care journey
 - The service is available by calling 811 or via online chat on their website.
<https://healthconnectontario.health.gov.on.ca>
- RNAO's has updated its Political Platform:
 - *Environmental Determinants of Health*: The need to conserve and protect the environment – land, air and water – for future generations is linked to health and requires urgent action. Temperatures are rising faster in Ontario than the global average. Human activity is driving climate change with increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Uncontrolled urban sprawl and insufficiently regulated resource extraction is eliminating water sources and productive land, and diminishing nature's capacity to sustain life.

- *Social Determinants of Health:* Growing social and economic inequities have left many Ontarians in poverty. For large segments of the population, income has not kept pace with the cost of living, especially housing. These inequities are racialized with visible minorities and Indigenous peoples experiencing higher levels of poverty and housing needs. Segments of the population, income has not kept pace with the cost of living, a stagnant minimum wage, minimal employment standards and weak tenant protections have left many Ontarians vulnerable to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. During COVID-19, the already overcapacity shelter system lost. Significant change is needed to ensure economic and social vulnerabilities are eliminated, and rights to housing and health are protected.
- *Care Delivery:* COVID-19 has exposed the shortcomings of Ontario's health system. The public health sector was not prepared for a pandemic. More than 4,200 nursing home residents died from COVID-19 as the chronically short-staffed and underfunded long-term care sector was essentially abandoned. Intensive care units and emergency departments were stretched beyond capacity and a three-year backlog of surgeries and treatments continues to accumulate. The primary and home care sectors of the system that should have been at the forefront of Ontario's pandemic response were often inaccessible when they could have played a greater role. The lessons learned from the pandemic must inform the ongoing transformation of Ontario's system to an integrated model of care. An accessible, equitable, person-centred, integrated and publicly-funded health system, delivered primarily on a not-for-profit basis, can only be realized when Ontario has a robust community care sector. This transformation must be led by primary care and aligned with a fully-funded public health system.
- *Fiscal Capacity:* The lack of investment in Ontario's health system and the other factors that determine peoples' health have left too many Ontarians vulnerable to illness. For many years and under successive governments, Ontario has had one of the lowest revenue-to-GDP ratios and one of the lowest program expenditures-to-GDP ratios among the provinces. The government has the capacity to do more to invest in people's health and improve their health outcomes.

RNAO's Annual General Meeting - June 9-11, 2022



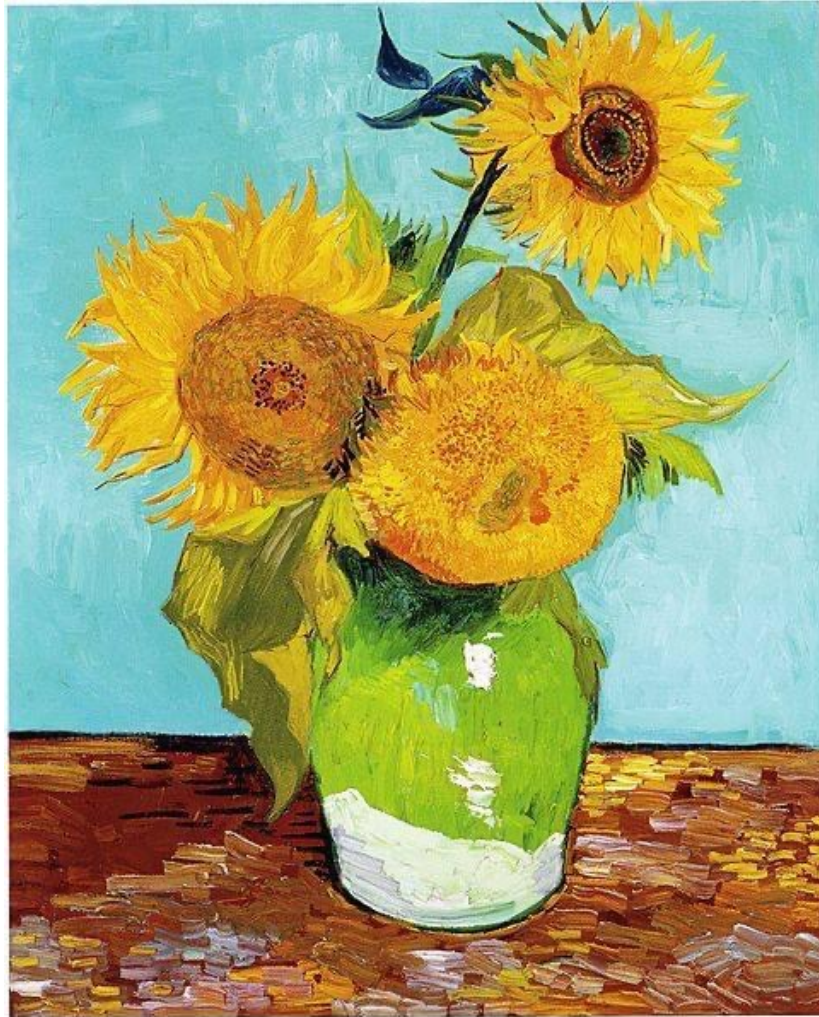
Highlights of the Annual General Meeting held June 9-11, 2022 can be accessed from the [RNAO.ca](https://www.rnao.ca) website.

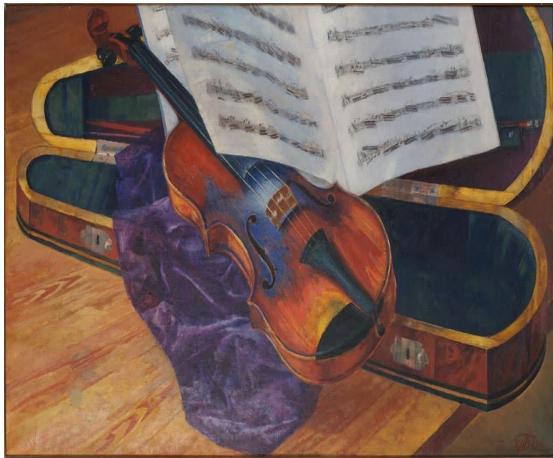
Consultative Representatives voted on Resolutions that were submitted by RNAO Members on the day of the Annual General Meeting. *This year 12 Resolutions were presented and passed.* RNAO then focuses its attention on the resolutions for improved health care and the advancement of the Nursing Profession.

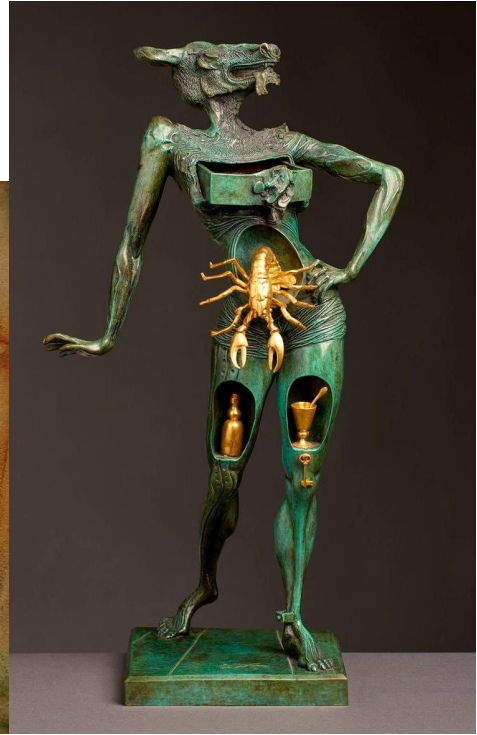
Region 7's past President Dr. Claudette Holloway is now President of RNAO, a proud moment for us indeed. If you missed the AGM, you can watch her inspiring speech which was recorded and available at the link above.

Premier Ford was the keynote speaker on June 10, 2022 – Here are his words in brief: Appreciate nurses dedication and commitment, nurses the finest among us, champions, true leaders, nurses need reinforcement; reduce barriers for foreign nurses, investing dollars for nurses/doctors to practice in underserved rural communities, dollars were provided to pay student nurses to assist during the Pandemic, will support nurses to prescribe certain medications, dollars for nursing education in partnership with RNAO, promise to be a true partner with RNAO, appreciate the CEO Doris; God Bless. See the video by clicking the link above.

It is time for Healing to Begin - Let's go to the Art Gallery!









Canadian Paintings



Life Cycle Norval Morrisseau ~ Anishinaabe c. 1980-1985



Art by [@Duncanpheasant](#)

