
Winter 2026 NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As President of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association (CGNA), I am pleased to introduce myself and to share a glimpse of what lies ahead for our organization. I entered nursing with a passion for working with older people and feel fortunate to be part of the CGNA, an organization with a rich history of dedicated and passionate gerontological practitioners.

I have been a registered nurse since 2010, completed my Master of Nursing with a specialization in aging in 2017, and obtained my CNA Gerontological Nursing Certification (GNC[c]) in 2020. I am based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and previously served for several years on the Manitoba Gerontological Nursing Association (MGNA) executive before becoming involved at the national level with CGNA.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 CGNA Conference in Winnipeg. As planning for the 2027 conference begins, we will be building on the rich discussions from the 2025 Issues and Trends session and seeking your input to help shape the future direction of CGNA. Please watch your email for opportunities to share your perspectives, join the board or a committee, and ensure that CGNA continues to provide value and meet the evolving needs of our members.

Thank you to the Communications Committee for the opportunity to introduce myself and share a preview of what's ahead in 2026. Wishing you the best in the year ahead.

Brandy Stadnyk RN BN MN CVAA(c) GNC(c) (she/her)
President CGNA

POLICY WATCH

By V M Boscart

<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/veronique-boscart-5565aa154>

CGNA on LinkedIn:

<https://ca.linkedin.com/company/cdngeronursingassoc>

On June 6, 2024, the federal government introduced Bill C 72, the Connected Care for Canadians Act, legislation aimed at improving secure health information sharing across digital systems in Canada (Health Canada, 2024). The intent of this Act is to increase interoperability, so that patients and care teams can access the right information at the right time, while strengthening protections for personal health data.

For gerontological nurses, this matters because older people often receive care across multiple settings and multiple providers. When information does not move smoothly, medication lists, goals of care, functional assessments, and care partner context can be lost, which contributes to delays, duplication, and avoidable harm. Better connected records could support safer transitions, more consistent care planning, and clearer communication with care partners and substitute decision makers. At the same time, digital access and digital literacy are uneven, so any national push toward connected care must be paired with practical supports for older people and care partners, including accessible design, language options, and clear consent processes.

The Canadian Nurses Association has indicated support for the bill's direction, emphasizing both protection of people's health data and the need for safer, more efficient system level information sharing (Canadian Nurses Association, 2026). As CGNA, this is an opportunity to advocate for implementation that reflects gerontological nursing realities: person centred documentation, care partner inclusion, attention to equity, and workflow friendly tools that reduce burden at the point of care rather than adding clicks.

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What can we do as gerontological nurses?

- **Strengthen transitions:** Ensure medication reconciliation, goals of care, and key functional and care partner information are consistently documented in structured, searchable fields, not only in narrative notes.
- **Advocate for older people and care partners:** Push for accessible patient portals, plain language summaries, language options, and clear consent processes, especially for substitute decision makers.
- **Identify workflow risks early:** Report where digital tools create duplication or workarounds, and propose specific fixes that reduce burden while improving safety.
- **Champion standards in your setting:** Ask vendors and local digital teams how interoperability standards are being adopted, and what timelines and accountability measures exist.
- **Bring an equity lens:** Watch for who is left behind by digital approaches, including rural communities, low digital literacy, limited connectivity, and cognitive or sensory challenges, and advocate for supports and alternatives.

Gerontological nurses make a difference.

Advocate, act, and lead.

Thank you for your work and commitment to gerontology.

References

Canadian Nurses Association. (2026, February 4). [CNA pleased with Government of Canada introduction of the Connected Care for Canadians Act.](#)

Health Canada. (2024, June 6). [The Government of Canada introduces the Connected Care for Canadians Act, improving patients' safety and access to their health information. Government of Canada.](#)

MEET A GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE

Vishakha Kapadia, RN, MSN
CGNA Member
Clinical Nurse Educator,
ACE and Seniors Program,
General Medicine 4,
William Osler Health System



As a gerontological specialty nurse educator, my 20 years of nursing experience across diverse clinical populations have shaped my commitment to advancing care for older people. For the past four years, I have specialized in dementia care on an Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) unit, a role that differs from my earlier bedside practice in the ICU and PACU. When I joined the team, our organization was in the early stages of Butterfly Accreditation with Meaningful Care Matters. Through a strong interdisciplinary effort, we achieved exemplary standards and became the first acute care hospital to implement the Butterfly Model of Care within an ACE unit.

From a gerontological lens, it has been meaningful to observe how therapeutic environments, such as painted wayfinding walls, and individualized engagement activities can support communication and reduce expressions of distress among people living with dementia. As a key trainer for Butterfly education workshops, I support nurses to use relational, gentle approaches that enhance quality of care and preserve dignity.

Perspectives Latest Issue:

Older People Experiencing Homelessness

[Learn More](#)

Call for Special Issue Submissions:

Perspectives: Journal of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association is pleased to announce a forthcoming Special Issue (2027) on The Future of Gerontological Nursing: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Opportunities and Challenges.

Artificial intelligence—commonly defined as computer systems capable of learning, reasoning, and problem-solving—has rapidly expanded with advances in computing, data science, and digital health. While definitions and scope continue to evolve, emerging forms such as Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and Artificial Superintelligence (ASI) raise important implications for healthcare.

This special issue aims to promote critical discussion on the benefits, risks, and ethical considerations of AI in gerontological nursing practice, education, research, and policy. Topics may include AI-supported clinical decision-making, education and clinical judgment, dementia prediction, digital monitoring technologies, interprofessional care, robotics, companionship platforms, ageism in AI outputs, and ethical governance.

We welcome submissions from researchers, clinicians, educators, community partners, and interdisciplinary scholars in Canada and internationally.

Submission deadline: November 1, 2026

Author guidelines: www.cgna.net

Inquiries: perspectives@cgna.net

AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Grants

CGNA offers research grants each year in support of small research projects examining an area of gerontological nursing practice up to \$2500.

Scholarships

CGNA offers scholarships each year to support students enrolled in a nursing program focused on gerontological nursing.

Ann C. Beckingham Scholarship

The Ann C. Beckingham Scholarship is provided to support outstanding Registered Nurses undertaking further education in a graduate degree program, preferably in the field of gerontological nursing, including Nurse Practitioner programs that focus on the care of older people.

Memorial Scholarship

Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding nurse who is completing or renewing their gerontological nursing certification through the Canadian Nurses Association. At the time of application for the Memorial Scholarship, the nurse must be a CGNA member in good standing.

To learn more and apply
<https://cgna.net/>

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Congratulations to Our 2025 Award and
Scholarship Recipients!**

Research Grant

Genevieve Thompson

Ann C. Beckingham Scholarship

Fernanda Fengler Dal Pizzol

Shawna Peddar

Victoria Pickles



A Wellness Message for Gerontological Nurses

Caring for older people deeply meaningful work, but it can also be emotionally, physically, and morally demanding. Gerontological nurses often hold stories of loss, resilience, advocacy, and connection—sometimes all in the same shift. Your work matters, and so does your well-being.

Wellness does not require perfection or constant positivity. It can begin with small, intentional moments: pausing to take a breath, checking in with a colleague, setting a boundary, or acknowledging that some days are simply hard. Caring for yourself is not a luxury—it is an essential part of sustaining compassionate, ethical care for older people.

Please remember that your presence, patience, and advocacy make a difference, even when outcomes feel uncertain or systems feel strained. You are part of a community of nurses who share your commitment to dignity, personhood, and quality of life in aging.

Be gentle with yourself, seek connection when you need it, and allow space for rest and renewal. Your work has lasting impact—and you deserve care, support, and appreciation in return.

Wellness Tip

Create boundaries: Saying no and protecting your peace is normal! It's okay to cancel plans or saying no in order to prevent burnout. Take time to prioritize you, it is not selfish, it's essential. Boundaries also help to foster healthy relationships in your life and promote a healthy work-life balance.

CGNA MEMBERSHIP

Start 2026 with a Membership to CGNA

The Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association is an organization that represents gerontological nurses and promotes gerontological nursing practice across Canada. CGNA is actively recruiting new members for the Association. As a member of CGNA, you will be entitled to receive the following member benefits:

- Perspectives Journal Subscription
- Access to archived library of Gerontological Nursing webinars at no cost!
- Access to the electronic version of 2010 Gerontological Nursing Standards and Competencies Document
- Opportunity to apply for scholarships and research grants
- Reduced rates at CGNA Biennial Meeting, educational resources and materials
- Subscription to the CGNA quarterly newsletter
- Volunteer opportunities to participate in CGNA Committees
- Support and influence the development of the field of Gerontology

Join today:
<https://cgna.net/>

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