



Annual Report to Members

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

For Presentation at the Annual General Meeting:

June 13, 2026

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President

Name and Position/Committee: Brandy Stadnyk, President

Activities during this period: Gratitude.

Completing my first year as president of the CGNA has been a wonderful experience. I have learned much about leading a national nursing association and am going to start the thank yous by thanking every member of the CGNA board of directors. They have had to deal with overly ambitious agendas and persistence in revisiting items until we can reach a decision. We have not achieved everything I had hoped by this time, but as a board we are continuing to have difficult discussions in an effort to address gaps and make improvements to the value CGNA offers its members. Thank you to those who have been in this role before me and are still willing to answer my questions. Julie, Elaine, and Lori, your experience and support has been greatly appreciated.

Thank you to you, the members; without you there would be no CGNA. CGNA members are passionate and vocal. You are leading research to improve care and establish best practices. You are teaching and mentoring nursing students and new graduates to appreciate the nuance and complexities of caring for older adults. You are providing direct care with skill and compassion. You show up when it counts, whether that involves attending local chapter/association events or the biennial national conference, the CGNA members are the backbone of this association.

Speaking of biennial national conferences... save the dates May 5-7, 2027. With "**Future Ready Gerontology: Innovation at Hart**", CGNA2027 brings nurse-led innovation to the heart of Toronto at the historic Hart House at the University of Toronto. Stay tuned for the call for abstracts. I look forward to hearing the innovations led by CGNA members.

It is no secret memberships in not-for-profit special interest groups have declined in many sectors over the last several years. We asked attendees at the 2025 CGNA conference in Winnipeg why they have signed up for or continue to renew their membership and community and education are the top reasons.

Approximately half the attendees at the 2025 conference were not aware of the CGNA before the event. It is difficult to attract members if people don't know we exist or why they should spend their hard earned money and extremely valuable time being a member. In an effort to increase awareness of the CGNA and help build community online, we have launched regularly scheduled posts on LinkedIn. Rotating topics related to gerontological nursing, you will see posts alternating Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays:

- Myth Monday to help dispel myths about gerontology and ageing
- Test your Gerontological Knowledge on Wednesdays as an easy way to refresh your gerontological nursing knowledge based on the CNA GNC bibliography
- Fact Friday shares something fun about gerontological nursing



Nursing education for entry to practice has changed over the years and the Memorial Scholarship has not had eligible applicants in some time. With the support of the board, we have been able to repurpose the Memorial Scholarship in 2026 to support members to acquire and maintain gerontological nursing certification. I'm proud the CGNA is able to offer financial support for ongoing education and certification of excellence in gerontology.

To further support education and offer value to members, the CGNA is partnering with the provincial associations to plan a new series of virtual educational opportunities covering current gerontological topics. These national webinars will be recorded and available to CGNA members at no cost. Stay tuned for more information and be sure to register when available.

Thank you for the past year and I look forward to continuing work and progress during the next.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy Stadnyk RN MN, CVAA©, GNC(C)

President, CGNA



President Elect

Name and Position/Committee: Veronique Boscart, President-Elect

Activities during this period:

- Participated in regular Executive and Board meetings in the role of President Elect and contributed to discussions related to CGNA priorities, governance, and future planning.
- Supported Association communications through involvement in newsletter development and related member engagement activities, with the goal of strengthening connection, visibility, and awareness of CGNA initiatives.
- Contributed to the early planning and organization of the 2027 CGNA conference in Toronto, helping to support the groundwork for a successful future national gathering.
- Participated in discussions and work related to CGNA finances, with attention to responsible planning, organizational sustainability, and stewardship of resources.
- Worked collaboratively with Executive and Board colleagues to support leadership continuity and to advance the mission of CGNA in promoting excellence in gerontological nursing through leadership, knowledge, and scholarship.

Additional Notes:

It is a privilege to serve as President Elect and to contribute to the ongoing work of CGNA. I look forward to continuing this work in support of the Association and its members.

Respectfully Submitted, May 5, 2026

VM Boscart



Past President

Name and Position/Committee: Julie Rubel, Past President

Activities during this period:

In my role as Past President, it has been my pleasure to continue serving CGNA in a variety of ways. First, as a support to incoming board members, having served on the board since 2015. Second, I have had the pleasure to assist with the CGNA 2025 conference and to begin planning CGNA 2027. Lastly, it is my pleasure to coordinate the nominations process for our CGNA Board of Directors.

Leadership

This year, I am pleased to share, CGNA has received nominations in response to our call for a Board of Director positions. We look forward to our June 2026 AGM where we will announce our 2026-2027 Board. Thank you to all who have put their name forward. Thank you as well to those Board members who are continuing on to complete their current term. If you would like further information about participating on the CGNA Board, please reach out to me julie.rubel@gmail.com.

Knowledge

As part of the planning committees for both the 2025 and 2027 CGNA biennial conferences, I have had the unique pleasure of working with colleagues from across Canada. Putting together a conference of this size takes many hours of dedication. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to those CGNA members who made the 2025 conference memorable for all who attended. Not only did we learn a lot, we also grew together, had a lot of fun, and enjoyed great food in a beautiful location.

The upcoming CGNA 2027 conference is still in the early planning phase, however it is shaping up to be a great event! We look forward to gathering together in Toronto as we share innovations in gerontological nursing practice and highlight our collective impacts on healthcare systems, education, research and of course, the older adults we participate with in care. Stay tuned for upcoming conference details.

Scholarship

In 2026, CGNA released a call for its Chair, Research and Scholarship. The Chair has two primary responsibilities:

- Coordinating the call and review of the CGNA Research award as well as the Ann C. Beckingham & Memorial scholarships.
- Working alongside the conference planning committee to oversee the call for abstracts and scientific review for the biennial conference.

If you have interest in learning more about this voluntary position or you would like to participate as a reviewer, please stay tuned to CGNA's social media and email blasts for upcoming opportunities.



We wish to thank outgoing Chair, Marie-Lee Yous, for her service over the past two years. We have seen exciting increases in award submissions, including to the reimagined Memorial scholarship. We are grateful for your thoughtful leadership and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Rubel, RN, MScN, GNC(C)
Past President, CGNA



Secretary

Name and Position/Committee: Gabrielle Demers, Secretary

Activities during this period:

Hi all, this was my first term as secretary and first involvement with CGNA. After attending the 2025 conference I knew I wanted to get involved. Thank you to all my fellow executive and board members who have been so helpful with their knowledge and insights as I settled in. I attended all Executive and Board of Director meetings except for one since the AGM. All meetings were held by Zoom platform.

Executive Meeting:

- October 15th, 2025
- December 10th, 2025
- February 18th, 2025
- April 15, 2026

Board of Director Meeting:

- September 17th, 2025
- November 19th 2025
- January 21st, 2026
- March 18th 2026 – Unable to attend live, recording reviewed and minutes distributed
- Upcoming: May 20th 2026

Additional Notes:

Prepared and circulated to Executive and Board members the meeting minutes and associated documents.

Facilitated the collation of reports for the AGM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabrielle Demers RN, MSc(A), GNC (C)

Secretary, CGNA



Treasurer

Name and Position/Committee: Mark Dager, Treasurer, Board of Directors for CGNA

Activities during this period: During the time frame listed above, the work that surrounds me includes introduction to the CGNA structure, reviewing and being briefed on the historical state of operations of CGNA and reviewing the financial statements, variance reports and collaborating to explore opportunities to financially grow and enhance the budget.

Additional Notes: About Mark - As a graduate of Fanshawe college in Nursing, I'm proud to say that I've been a nurse for 32 years, For almost 30 years, I have worked for the County of Oxford, my growth in our Long-Term Care homes started with myself working as an orderly to start, after a short time in this role, a floor duty nurse role developed to which I took. After working as a Gerontology nurse on the floor for 20 years, I became the Supervisor of Behavioral Supports and Mental Health for the County, then hired as the Director of Long-Term Care. My commitment to learning and supporting the Gerontological populations in my current role in a different way, guided myself to IVEY School of Business to which I graduated in Municipal Leadership. This has provided me with the tools to guide and motivate the future staff of Long-Term Care and Gerontology to envision this work as meaningful and fulfilling work, with the goals of inspiring them to be innovative and open-minded to make tomorrow a better day than today, for our elders in our community.

My continued commitment to the members of CGNA is to continue to work alongside administrative staff to review the finances of CGNA, explore opportunities to grow and offer and make suggestions and recommendations to the board to ensure fiduciary responsibility is adhered to. Beyond my role of contributing on a financial support basis, I aim to contribute to the cause in future branding of the CGNA and making contributions to grow Gerontology supports, nationwide.

Director of Communication

Name and Position/Committee: Kim Ritchie – Director of Communications

Activities during this period:

Over the 2025–2026 term, I focused on strengthening CGNA’s social media presence, enhancing member engagement, and supporting student involvement in gerontological nursing initiatives. Key activities are outlined below.

Priorities for the upcoming term include advancing the website content updates based on the environmental scan findings, finalizing and implementing the social media guidelines, and continuing to expand student engagement in communications and research-related activities. Additional efforts will focus on enhancing member communication and exploring new strategies to increase reach and impact.

1. CGNA Website Redesign

- Submitted an application to support student involvement in a comprehensive website redesign initiative. While the proposal was not successful this cycle, it provided valuable insight into future funding and development opportunities.
- As an alternative strategy, a team of undergraduate nursing students was convened to conduct an environmental scan of existing gerontology-focused educational resources.
- This work will inform an update of the website’s educational content, ensuring it reflects current evidence, best practices, and user needs. The initiative also supports student engagement in knowledge synthesis and resource development.

2. Social Media and Communications

- A monthly social media campaign was recently launched to increase visibility, engagement, and awareness of CGNA among members and the broader community.
- A winter newsletter was successfully developed and disseminated, highlighting organizational updates, member achievements, and key initiatives.
- Social media guidelines were drafted to support consistent, professional, and strategic communication across platforms. These guidelines are currently undergoing refinement and will guide future communications efforts.

3. **Student Mentorship**

- Provided mentorship to undergraduate students analyzing participant feedback from the CGNA conference workshop. This work supports both student skill development in research and evaluation and contributes to ongoing quality improvement of CGNA programming.

Additional Notes:



Director of Education

Name and Position/Committee: Roslyn M. Compton, Director of Education

Activities during this period:

The CGNA Education team met four times in January, June, September, and November 2025 over Zoom.

Team membership:

Roslyn M Compton Director of Education – Saskatchewan
Abigail Wickson-Griffiths – Saskatchewan
Barbara Tallman – Manitoba
Debbie Lashbrooke – Ontario
Mariana dos Santos Ribeiro – Saskatchewan
Kimberly Ritchie – CGNA Director of Communications

Pallium/CGNA ECHO Hub Partner was established in February 2024. In 2025, four sessions were facilitated by Compton and Tallman on:

- April 17: Part 1 Strengthening a Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care (SPA-LTC) (Abigail Wickson-Griffiths)
- April 24: Part 2 Strengthening a Palliative Approach in Long-Term Care (SPA-LTC)
- June 5: Part I Altered Responses (Erin Yakiwchuk and Deb Schick)
- June 12: Part 2 Altered Responses
- September 4: Part 1 Nutrition Care at End-of-Life (Dr. Allison Cammer)
- September 11: Part 2 Nutrition Care at End-of-Life (Dr. Allison Cammer)
- November 6: Part I Community Paramedic Program (Debbie Lashbrooke)
- November 13: Part 2 Community Paramedic Program (Debbie Lashbrooke)

ECHO sessions have been designed to maximize opportunities for nurses to attend during break times at work – 2 30-minute sessions on the 1st and 2nd Thursday of the month. The first session is a presentation of the concept, and the second session is an application session with the opportunity for case presentations and discussion facilitated by the presenter.

Pallium ECHO lost its funding at the end of 2025. The CGNA Education Team has signed up to complete the training sessions to facilitate the ECHO sessions independently, with guidance from Pallium ECHO.



CGNA Education Website

The shell has been created for CGNA Education page on the website. The education team has begun to plan the content and layout for the page. A team of Riipen LevelUP students mapped out the education page, which will be used as a template.

Review and archive webinars housed on CGNA website. This process was commenced and placed on hold. Most webinars are very old and need to be archived. We are waiting for the environmental scan to be completed by the undergraduate nursing student team before we decide what to archive.

2026 Plan

- Establish webpage on CGNA website, including section for upcoming education sessions from sources across Canada and internationally (free sessions)
 - A team of undergraduate nursing students is volunteering their time to do an environmental scan for the resources (began December 2025)
- Revise CGNA (2020) Gerontological Nursing Standards of Practice and Competencies (4th ed.).
 - Mental health
 - Unhoused/homelessness
 - Reconsider pillars
 - Conduct survey of members/non members
- Complete the ECHO training sessions to facilitate our own webinars
 - Proposed restart of the CGNA ECHO sessions in November 2026, pending the completion of the training modules
 - Kimberly Ritchie – Trauma-informed care
- CNA Gerontological Nursing Certification – to follow up and engage in this process when it begins. Currently, the call has been put out for the development of the LPN Certification exam. Compton has indicated to CNA that they are interested in contributing.



Research and Scholarship Committee

Name and Position/Committee: Marie-Lee Yous, Chair Research and Scholarship Committee

Activities during this period:

The committee successfully completed the Grant and Scholarship competition for 2026 awards.

We had an excellent response to the call for applications with 6 applications for the Ann C. Beckingham Scholarship, 5 applications for the Memorial Scholarship, and 6 applications for the CGNA research grant. We awarded one research grant of \$2,500 to Kristine Newman from Ontario.

We awarded 4 Ann C. Beckingham Scholarships totaling \$17,000 to: Elizabeth Wojtowicz from Ontario, Brittany DeGraves from Alberta, Chelsea Groen from Ontario, and Tanya Doran from Alberta.

We awarded 2 Memorial Scholarships totaling \$900 to: Gabrielle Demers from Manitoba and Anju Malik from Newfoundland and Labrador

Leadership:

I am looking forward to ending my second year as chair of this committee and supporting the next chair who will be involved with the conference abstract review process and in the Grant and Scholarship competition for 2027.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie-Lee

Perspectives

Name and Position/Committee: Lillian Hung Editor-in-Chief-Perspectives, Journal of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association.

The Perspectives Editorial Team comprised of (Lorna Guse- and Roslyn Compton Associate Editor , Dawn Prentice - Past Editor)

Activities during this period:

- 8 manuscripts submitted
- Three issues of *Perspectives* were published including a special edition on Homelessness published in the summer of 2025
- Hosted a Meet and Greet at the CGNA biennial conference in Winnipeg in May 2025
- Four editorial team meetings were held
- Dr. Lillian Hung was recruited as the new Editor-in- chief effective January 1, 2026
- Call for submission for a Perspectives special issue on *The Future of Gerontological Nursing: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Opportunities and Challenges* circulated



Provincial Organization Reporting

Newfoundland and Labrador Gerontological Nursing Association

Name and Role of Director Reporting: Carla Wells, Board Representative, NLGNA

Contact Information: 709-630-0793; carlamwells@gmail.com

Current Issues:

Membership remains an ongoing issue, like most provinces. Restructuring the executive is also an ongoing issue.

Activities during this period:

1. NLGNA has held one meeting with members. There was no quorum so elections could not be held at that time. One member has come forward citing interest in holding an executive position.
2. Carla has continued involvement with ongoing discussions with NS and PE regarding amalgamation of provincial associations in Atlantic Canada. Talks are ongoing.

Additional Notes: None.



Nova Scotia Gerontological Nursing Association

Director Reporting: Katie Pitt- Provincial Representative

Contact Information: pittkathlene@gmail.com

Current Issues:

- There maintains a challenge to find active board members. Many board positions are open without candidates.
- Membership is mostly inactive.

Activities during this period (e.g., educational sessions, participation in provincial policy development): None



Gerontological Nursing Association Ontario

Name and Position/Committee: Melissa Northwood, President-Elect

Activities during this period:

- Board of Director Meetings: The Board met in January and February of 2025 and held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 22, 2025. The Board has committed to resuming monthly meetings and have met in February and March of 2026.
- Annual General Meeting 2025: The focus of this meeting was to call for nominations for vacant board positions. President-Elect and Communications Director were acclaimed at this meeting.
- GNAO Chapter Events:
 - North West Chapter: joint event with Dementia Café of North West Dementia Care Group in November 2025; supported joint event with Centre for Health Care Ethics, Thunder Bay and sponsored a student poster award.
 - Greater Hamilton Area Chapter: AGM held October 25, 2025; education event by health ethicist held at local long-term care home in spring 2025; offered annual education award; created the “Karen Bakker Stephens Education Fund” for RPNs to support their education to recognize Karen’s commitment to the Hamilton chapter and GNAO.
- Annual General Meeting 2026: Scheduled for May 26, 2026.

Additional Notes:

Current Board of Director Status:

- President: on leave.
- President Elect: Melissa Northwood
- Past President: Therese Lim
- Treasurer: Gwen Harris
- Membership Co-Chairs: Esther Coker and Maureen Montemuro
- Professional Advocacy Director: **Vacant**
- Communications Director: Samia Johns
- Student/New Graduate Liaison Representatives: **Vacant**
- Co-Presidents, Central East: Mel Kelly (on leave) and Kimberly Ritchie
- President, Greater Hamilton Area Chapter: Natalie Frixione
- President, Lambton Chapter: Darlene Hakker
- President, North West Chapter: Catherine Schoales
- President, Bluewater Chapter: **Vacant**
- President, London Chapter: **Vacant**



- President, Niagara Chapter: **Vacant**
- President, Ottawa Chapter: **Vacant**
- President, South East Chapter: **Vacant**
- President, North East Chapter: **Vacant**
- President, Toronto Chapter: **Vacant**

Challenges facing GNAO:

- Chapters without Executives: Four of the 11 chapters have an existing executive so local events are not occurring for 714 members in those seven chapters without an executive.
- Board of Director Vacancies: Require active recruitment.
- Retaining and increasing membership: GNAO saw a significant decrease in numbers from 2023/24 to 2024/25 from a total of 1491 members to a total of 1032 (loss of 459 members). From 2024/25 the membership numbers have stayed stable.

Opportunities and Plans for 2026/27:

- Update and re-launch GNAO website to attract new members and keep existing members informed of chapter and provincial events.
- Re-evaluate current membership and chapter model to best meet membership needs, including members of chapters without existing executives. Recruit to local chapter executives.
- Plan and offer centralized education events and awards across the province while supporting in-person local chapter events and sharing virtual local chapter events.
- Actively recruit to vacant Board of Director Positions.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for your commitment and support of our organization.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of GNAO,

Melissa Northwood RN PhD GNC(C)



Manitoba Gerontological Nursing Association

Name and Position/Committee: Brian Sawatzky, President

Activities During This Period:

Education

During the 2025–2026 period, MGNA continued to host quarterly education sessions on topics relevant to promoting high-quality care for older adults:

- **September 2025:** *“Code Comfort: Dementia Education for Better Outcomes”* – Cecilia Nguyen & Terri Bowser
- **November 2025:** *“Managing Intersecting Vulnerabilities: Dignity in Care for People with Responsive Behaviours”* – Jennifer Dunsford
- **February 2026:** *“Applying the Concept of Personhood to Foster an Abilities Approach to Care”* – Paula Black
- **April 2026:** *“Bridging the Gap on Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults”* – Lisa Tinley

These sessions were well received and supported ongoing professional development in gerontological nursing practice.

CGNA Conference

MGNA was privileged to host the 23rd Biennial CGNA National Conference in May 2025, titled *“Reuniting at the Forks: Inclusivity in Gerontological Nursing Practice.”* The conference was well attended by CGNA members from across Canada and internationally, and it provided a valuable opportunity for networking, knowledge exchange, and advancing gerontological nursing practice.

Increasing Membership

With membership declining both provincially and nationally, MGNA has focused on enhancing the value of membership and exploring alternative recruitment strategies.

To broaden engagement and foster early interest in gerontological nursing, we have prioritized student recruitment. Our bylaws were revised to eliminate the student membership fee, and an executive student position was created on the Board of Directors. In September, the President and President-Elect hosted a booth at the University of Manitoba’s orientation day to engage students and recruit new members.

Donor/Sponsorship Campaign



To reduce costs and enhance member value, MGNA developed and distributed a sponsorship letter to various businesses and organizations, requesting support for MGNA events or member-focused initiatives.

As a result of this outreach, MGNA secured a discount on eight annual passes to the Manitoba Museum. These passes are now available to MGNA members at no cost, further enhancing the benefits of membership.

Additional Notes

- MGNA restructured its Executive Board by combining the Media and Membership portfolios into a single Communications position.
- Planning has begun for the upcoming MGNA biannual conference, scheduled for November 2026.



Alberta Gerontological Nursing Association

Name and Position/Committee: J. David Patterson, MN RN CCSNE, President@AGNA.ca

Activities during this period:

Board meetings were held monthly through the 2025-26 term. We held our AGM on June 13th, 2025. We have been fortunate to operate over the past year with most board positions filled and offer our sincere thanks to our board for this past years' service, particularly those who are finishing their term.

As with many provincial associations, AGNA has seen a decline in membership activity at the local level. This past year has seen a resurgence in members coming out to meetings and events with our Red Deer Chapter; however, both Calgary and Edmonton Chapters have seen a decline in in-person and virtual events that is leading the Association to propose moving to a more centralized role with support from the Provincial executive to local initiatives in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Red Deer. Calgary hosted a Fall get together in Fish Creek Provincial Park as well as a Networking event in April that saw several long-term and newer members and guests. Networking events are planned for Lethbridge, Edmonton, and Red Deer this Spring.

Over the past 18 months, AGNA has undertaken a significant project to update our website and email this past year, with the initial work to move to a new server now complete. This has resulted in further work as we ensure our Association can maintain a sustainable and effective way to communicate with our members and the public on a soon-to-be introduced web platform.

Red Deer Chapter hosted a Community Event in October 2025 on ways to age well presented by Catriona Blythe. They also hosted a Members Event in January for micro steps in dealing with burnout presented by Renee Joslin. It was a great evening to network and learn new strategies. A special thank you to the Red Deer Primary Care Network for allowing us to host this event in their beautiful building. The Red Deer team is looking forward to a team participation in the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's on May 30, 2026.

The Education committee hosted a webinar with Dr. Daranne Harris, PhD. called Reimagining Compassion in Continuing Care at the end of January 2026. The presentation explored the concept of a compassion gap in continuing care settings, discussed how compassion can be sustained and reimagined amid system pressures, and then gave some practical organizational tips for caring for older adults in a residential context. The Provincial Board continued to support the Non-Profit Board Internship program with the University of Alberta that placed a UAlberta student with our board over the Fall and Winter 2025/26 academic terms. Our student this year was Kathy D., a third/fourth year student studying Psychology and Health Policy. Kathy is interested in cultural inclusion in retirement planning and led a renewal of the AGNA's use of social media.





Gerontological Nursing Association of British Columbia

Name and Position/Committee: Mariko Sakamoto, GNABC president

Activities during this period:

2025 Conference: The GNABC Annual One-Day Conference took place May 3rd 2025 –

It was an online half-day conference with the theme: *Doing Things Differently in Long-Term Care: Navigating New Directions for Nurses* -we had about 90 people attend

Education Sessions: Our education chair runs 6 education sessions for CNA Gerontology Certification Exam prep – usually one set in the fall and one set in the spring

Speakers Series: Our education chair also runs a speakers series – one set in the fall and one in the spring

Newsletters: About once per season, we send out a newsletter to our membership

Consultation: This past fall, our executive board provided some informal consultation for Continuing Education at the University of Victoria – they were developing a community gerontology course.

Scholarship & Travel Bursary: This year we increased our GNABC Education Scholarship to 1K from \$500. We were also able to support two GNABC members with a \$500 travel bursary to attend the CGNA.

Additional Notes: 2026 AGM booked for May 9th followed by our 2026 Conference

This conference will be a hybrid one – first time we will have an in-person gathering since COVID. To be held at the University Club at the University of Victoria. Four speakers are planned for, along with a round table discussion at the end. Our theme this year is *Facing Urgencies: Mobilizing Strengths in Gerontological Nursing*

