

**ANNOUNCING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
COLLEGE OF REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES OF MANITOBA  
for 2009 – 2011**



**Leo O'Rourke** is the new President of the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM). Leo is Manager of Patient Care for the General Psychiatry Program and the Adult Eating Disorder Program at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. He has been practicing Psychiatric Nursing since 1991 working at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre until 1993 and then the PsychHealth Centre at the Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg. He has been on the CRPNM board since 2003 having just completed two successive terms as Vice-President of the College.

The new Vice-President is **Debbie Frechette, RPN, BScMH**. Debbie is the Adult Acute Psychiatry Patient Care Team Manager at Seven Oaks General Hospital. She has worked as a RPN in the WRHA for the last 16 years in a variety of settings and has served on many committees. The roles she has filled include that of Consultation Liaison Psychiatric Nurse. She has served on the Board of Directors for the last 3 terms including the last term on the executive committee as the Secretary/Treasurer. She is the Chair of the Professional Practice Committee, and represents the Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada on the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Health Human Resource Action Group.



The new Secretary/Treasurer is **Melanie Ferg, RPN**. Melanie has been employed at the Manitoba Developmental Centre since graduating from the Brandon Psychiatric Nursing program in 1991. She has been a Residential Coordinator for the past 12 years and has experience in both the Extended Care Program and the Habilitation Program which supports persons with a dual diagnosis (consisting of both a developmental disability and a clinical psychiatric diagnosis) to enhance their life skill abilities through the promotion of independence, choice and acquisition of life skills. Melanie has actively participated on numerous committees at the Centre and is currently involved in the Quality Management Committee, General Policy Manual Committee as well as the Clinical Nursing Policy & Procedure Committee. She has been a member of the CRPNM Board of Directors for the past 6 years.

The Executive Committee member at large is **Deborah Handziuk, M.Ed. (Ed. Psych., Counselling)** Deborah is currently in the role of Dean at Winnipeg Technical College, Deborah oversees all health, IT and English as an Additional Language programming at the Pembina Campus. As an administrator, she is responsible for staff as well as all academic and student matters. Prior to moving into administration, Deborah worked in counselling and education for 20 years. She was a counsellor at the college for 10 years and prior to this, was a counsellor for various community organizations. She has worked as a sessional instructor at both the University of Manitoba and Red River College and continues to deliver workshops in her current role at the college.



## The Directors are:



**Bill Ashdown** is a public representative appointed to the board of directors by the board. Bill was the Executive Director of the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba for twelve years. In 1995 he was the founding President of the Mood Disorders Association of Canada and recently held the appointment as the Chairman of the Board of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of the United States. Bill also serves on a number of boards for organizations in both Canada and the US. He is a founding member of the Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health. He is an active commentator on mental health and illness issues and is sought as a speaker internationally.

**Karen Burgess, RPN, BScPN, BA** –works as a Nurse Therapist with the Adult Eating Disorders Program at the Psychealth Centre. She has previous experience in child and adolescent eating disorders, acute adult general psychiatry and at a residential developmental centre. She received her BA from the U of M in 1999 and earned her BScPN degree with Greatest Distinction from BU in 2002 when she received the CRPNM Gold Medal for achievement in the program. Previously, she was on the Board of Directors from 2003-2007. She was elected twice to the executive in the Secretary/Treasurer position and sat on the Steering Committee for the 2004 World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses.



**Patrick Griffith, RPN, MPA** graduated from the Selkirk school of psychiatric nursing in 1982. Since that time his career has spanned hospital and community and his experience includes work in the areas of acute care, community, forensics and corrections. He has been in management positions for the past ten years and is currently the Director of Patient Services for Adult Mental Health at the Health Sciences Centre. As well, he currently works with Accreditation Canada as a surveyor. Over the course of his career he has furthered his education completing his diploma and degree in nursing and masters in public administration. He has past experience working with the college, having served on a number of committees including two previous terms on the board of directors.



**Isabelle Jarrin, RPN, BScPN, BA** is the Mental Health Nurse Educator at the Health Sciences Centre-PsychHealth Centre. Her clinical background is in inpatient adult mental health units. The main focus of her career has been in mental health nursing education, both in the clinical and university settings. Isabelle is a member of the CRPNM Psychiatric Nursing Education Approval Committee, CRPNM Board of Directors and Planning Committee for the 2004 and 2013 World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses.

**Esyllt Jones, PhD** is Assistant Professor in the History department at the University of Manitoba. She is the author of the awarding winning book ***Influenza 1918: Disease, Death and Struggle in Winnipeg*** (University of Toronto Press, 2007). She was recently awarded a three year research grant by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for a project on the history of medicare in Canada. She has served on the University of Manitoba Board of Governors, is currently a member of the editorial board of the University of Manitoba Press, and formerly worked as a researcher for the Manitoba Nurses' Union. Esyllt is a public representative appointed by the Minister of Health.





**Lynn Luining, RPN** Graduated in 1986 and has worked at Selkirk Mental Health Center since then. Currently works as a Coordinator of Patient Services in the Rehabilitation Program, and really enjoys seeing patients meet their recovery goals and return to their community. Lynn is active in a number of committees, including Nursing Standards and Practice. Lynn has been a member of the CRPNM Board of Directors over the past 4 years.

**Lawrence MacInnes LLB, QC** was appointed as a public representative on the board of directors by the board. He is retired from a senior Crown Attorney position for the Province of Manitoba, based in Brandon. Lawrence is now developing his knowledge and skills in new directions while also being a public representative on the board of directors. This is his fifth term of office on the board of directors.



**Grant Major, RPN, BA** is a Community Mental Health Worker, Intensive Case Manager-Mental Health in South Eastman Health/SantéSud-Est where he has practiced since 1995. He has worked in a variety of positions including Adult CMHW, Resource Developer/Clinical Specialist, Mental Health Program Coordinator, Community Outreach Coordinator responsible for Crisis Services and the Proctor Program, as well, the Acting Mental Health Program Manager. He has been extensively involved in volunteer activities with a focus on facilitating the well being of persons who are psychiatrically and developmentally disabled and on the promotion of good mental health. Grant was the CRPNM recipient of the 2008 Award for Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing Practice. Grant served on the CRPNM Investigation Committee for several years. He has just completed his second term on the board.

**Tracy Young, RPN, BScPN, BSc.** - received her BSc from BU in 2002 followed by a BScPN with Greatest Distinction in 2003. Until 2007, Tracy worked as a Staff Psychiatric Nurse and Group Facilitator at the Centre for Adult Psychiatry in Brandon. She now works as a Community Mental Health Nurse in the Mental Health Promotion Clinic for the Brandon Region. She has also done contract Mental Health Assessment and Rehabilitation work. She is a member of the CRPNM Professional Practice Committee and volunteers as a Sexual Assault Response Team member through the Brandon ER. Tracy has now completed two terms on the Board of Directors.



**Glenda Zelmer, RPN, B. Ed (A.D.), M. Ed. (Couns), M. Ed. (Spec Ed)** graduated from the psychiatric nursing education program in 1990 working first in Geriatrics at BMHC then in the area of Child & Adolescents where she remained, moving to the now CATC. After 12 years Glenda went back to school and obtained her Education degree and now counsels full-time at Crocus Plains High School. Glenda finds that she promotes positive mental health daily to her high school students, and regularly advocates for her students with other mental health professionals. As well Glenda promotes the RPN profession through speaking to graduating students