

## RPN Board of Directors 2021 – 2023



**Wanda Brine, RPN, Vice -president**

I am a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and was in the first graduating class of the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing Program, Brandon University in 1998. I hold 23 years of clinical practice experience, having worked in a multitude of community based mental health programs in Calgary, AB and Brandon MB. At present, I am employed as a Shared Care Mental Health Counsellor, My Health Team- Brandon with the Prairie Mountain Health Region.

Throughout my career I have fulfilled frontline, education and management roles. I have gained experience in strategic planning, policy and procedure development and budget/financial management as a member of various volunteer boards and committees. I have been an active Board Member on the CRPNM Board of Directors since 2015 and I am currently Vice President. I sit on the Executive and Governance Committees. I was a volunteer Item Writer for the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Canada Examination (RPNCE) content development from 2014-2017 and transitioned to the RPNCE Exam Committee 2018-present. I respect the dynamic nature of our healthcare system and embrace progressive change. I hold steadfast commitment to promoting excellence and growth for the RPN profession.



**Maija Majalahti, RPN**

Current Place and Area of Practice - Crisis Response Center, Winnipeg – Nurse Clinician

Statement of Intent - I am wishing to serve as a CRPNM Board Member to expand my knowledge and experience as an RPN by learning more about the role of CRPNM to both its members and the public.

Volunteer and/or Professional Activities - I have several years volunteer experience in mental health going back twenty years which has included the Schizophrenia society, Victoria hospice and Corrections Canada, as well as several years' experience as a board member of the Laren Society in Victoria, BC – A Corrections Canada halfway house. In addition, I served for several years as co-chair of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee at Seven Oaks Tertiary mental health hospital in Victoria, BC.

Special Skills, Abilities and Experiences - I have been a practicing RPN for nearly a decade with varied experience including acute care, corrections, crisis response and tertiary mental health which has included both regular nursing duties, as well as acting in a leadership role. In addition, I have enjoyed acting as a preceptor for psychiatric nursing students.



**Annette McDougall, RPN**

I am currently working as a nurse therapist in the Short-Term Assessment and Treatment Program at Health Sciences Centre. My previous psychiatric nursing experience includes various roles in acute care mental health. In 2019 I completed my Master of Psychiatric Nursing degree. My research focused on the experience of patient violence for acute care mental health nurses. I strongly believe that taking care of nurses and providing a safe environment is not only important for the safety and wellbeing of nurses, but also contributes to a safe and therapeutic environment for patients.

I am currently looking into how I might share these findings with a larger audience. I have been a member of the board of directors for the CRPNM since 2019. Over the last two years I have learned a lot about governance for psychiatric nurses. I am dedicated to my professional practice and would like the opportunity to continue in this role. During the last two years I have taken an active interest in learning and understanding what it means to be on the board of directors. I believe my current role on the board and my previous experience with committee work makes me a reasonable candidate for this position.



**Melissa Ramharakh, RPN**

I currently work at the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre (MATC), Community Child and Adolescent Treatment program as a Mental Health Clinician and Psychiatric Nurse. My scope of practice is within child and adolescent mental health. We receive a broad range of referrals from individual to systems level interventions.

I am interested in serving as a CRPNM member to contribute toward the CRPNM strategic priorities, specifically to advocate for ongoing growth and development of the RPN profession. My intent is to work collaboratively with the board to develop innovative ways to address the priorities. I believe my Master of Psychiatric Nursing education, with a focus on health care administration and leadership lends a

diverse perspective to instill growth and motivation towards the set priorities.

Current Experience:

- a. Committee member of the CRPNM's Discipline Committee
- b. Co-Chair of MATC's All Nation's Committee – Our priorities are focused on Indigenous Health and diverse populations seeking services. Our goal is to establish and implement culturally safe mental health care.
- c. Committee member of the Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) committee at the University of

Manitoba – organized and delivered this years APN conference in partnership with the ARNM.  
d. Director at RamaKrishna Mandir & Cultural Centre – focus is on youth engagement and organization of cultural community events.

e. Committee member of MATC's Mental Health and Addictions Training Initiative Program – leading the development of education modules to be delivered to allied health across Manitoba.

I will be completing my Master of Psychiatric Nursing in April 2022. I will be completing a thesis dissertation about health care leadership with graduate psychiatric and mental health nurses across Canada to inform future successful leadership attributes and practices for RPN's.

I am an advocate and leader within our organization about cultural safety and development of an inclusive work environment. I have initiated several sub-committees focused on various anti-racism and cultural awareness events.

I have strong interpersonal and collaboration skills. Throughout my career I have established strong working relationships to achieve program and clinical goals.



**Tracy Thiele, RPN, President**

I am a Registered Psychiatric Nurse with a Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing (Brandon University – 2001), a Master of Nursing – Administration (University of Manitoba – 2013) and a PhD(c) at University of Manitoba. My current role is Change Lead – Medicine/Family Medicine/Rehab for the WRHA. I currently am in the position of President on the CRPNM Board of Directors and would like to continue in this role to provide leadership and support as RPNs transition to the RHPA. I also continue to promote quality assurance with volunteering with the continuing competency auditing process for CRPNM members.

My board experience also includes current President of the Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses (mental health interest group of the Canadian Nursing Association - CNA) and past President of STTI Honor Society (Manitoba Chapter). I also volunteer with the Mental Health Commission of Canada on the Chronic Disease Collaborative, CNA Cannabis Advisory Committee and Mental Health & Substance Use Workforce Capacity with COVID-19 (University of Ottawa).

I am always amazed to learn about the roles of RPNs and how we are making an impact within our health system and look forward to continue to protect the public as our health system continues to evolve.



**Andrea Thomson, RPN**

I am currently employed as an assistant professor at Brandon University (Winnipeg Campus) within the Department of Psychiatric Nursing. In addition, I hold a casual position with the COVID Response Unit, completing nasopharyngeal swabbing.

I have been a Board Member with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba since 2019 and would like to continue to volunteer in this role. I want to give back to the profession of psychiatric nursing and members of the public. Serving as a Board Member has helped me stay current with the changes in health care trends and regulation.

I currently volunteer as secretary for the Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses. I previously volunteered on a recovery committee at Health Sciences Centre (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority) and served as chair. I am presently involved in organizational committees through Brandon University.

I have psychiatric nursing experience in a variety of roles including education, research, acute care, and counselling. My diverse work history will assist in my ability to contribute expertise to a variety of areas.

I am organized, hard working, and passionate about psychiatric nursing. Thank-you for considering my application.



**Richard Zwiep, RPN**

I am currently employed by Eden Health Care Services/Southern Health - Santé Sud in the Community Mental Health program as an Access/Intake clinician. I have been involved with the Governance Committee on this Board and I am familiar with the ongoing process of meeting the expectations of the Registered Health Professions Act.

I believe the College provides a valuable service to Psychiatric Nurses and the public and would appreciate being able to continue to contribute to this service.