

NENA Newsletter



Hello NENA Canada! Welcome to 2020...year of the nurse and midwife.

I am the current NENA president. I began my term July of 2019 and have been working with our NENA Board of Directors (BOD) on a number of items that have been and continue to be important items of interest for you...our NENA membership.

Some of the topics that were identified by our membership at the last AGM of our 2019 Annual Conference were: French translation of our national courses, the status of the CTAS work, NENA's consideration of student nurses, disappointments and frustrations with the current national website, and the lack of communication from the NENA board of directors to the NENA membership. Some of these items are addressed in this newsletter. The plan is to communicate with you regularly through this newsletter about the work we are doing. If you have suggestions or questions please reach out to me at President@NENA.ca

What will you find in this newsletter:

1. Our provincial/territorial directors will report what is happening in their areas;
2. A report from the International Course Administration Committee (ICAC);
3. CTAS update
4. An update on what is happening with the website redesign;
5. CJEN update
6. Certification update

I want to salute all of you working in emergency settings across Canada. The nursing shortages in one province, the salary freezes and lay-offs in another, the overcrowding and the shortage of inpatient beds, the overarching feeling of inadequacy when dealing with addictions and mental health, and the pervasive and ever-rising violence in our emergency departments from shore to shore...I salute you. You are the overlooked superheroes, you are the ambassadors of good will, you are the forgotten heroes, you are the behind-the-scenes life-savers, you are inspirational. And sometimes, while you are pushing the meds; or pumping on a chest; you are drilling an IO; or you are holding pressure on a massive bleed; you are listening to a heartbreaking story while you take a patient's history; or you are holding a newborn appreciating life...someone, with tears, says thank you.

Thank you. It's the year of the nurse...at the very least, let's salute each other.

Jean Harsch RN
NENA President



NEW BRUNSWICK REPORT

NENA-NB Membership

- Current membership is 105
- NENA-NB executive strategizing ways to retain these members.
- NB members were very excited to host 2019 conference
- Good showing from NB, both in conference attendance and volunteers.
- Feedback on conference facilities, presentations, pre-conference workshops, & socials very positive.

NB Future Plans

- Using funds to send our members to conferences as often as possible.
- Development of 10year spending plan.
- Investigating possibility of having small presentation on NENA membership benefits at all TNCC/ENPC/CTAS courses.
- Also investigating possibility of having presentation of NENA membership benefits to new ER hires.



**Joe Carr BN/RN, C-CCN,
ENC(C)**
Critical Care Flight Nurse
NENA Board Director- NB

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND REPORT

Hello from Prince Edward Island to all the amazing nurses across Canada. Thank you for your dedication and hard work, I know it is a challenging time for Emergency Nursing but you are doing great work.

It has been a slow fall with PEIENA with plans to kick it up a notch in the spring. We are working on training ENPC instructors to allow us to regularly hold courses after having a successful ENPC course this fall. TNCC and CTAS courses remain highly sought after and hopefully this will bring more TNCC instructors in the future. As always, we provide support to our members for other educational sessions they wish to attend through the Barb Burns Bursary. I believe I speak on behalf of all our membership when I say how grateful we are for our provincial course instructors and the work they put in to help maintain a high degree of education among our nurses.

As emergency nurses, I believe our struggles are over the same issues across Canada, with overcrowding, abuse, and many more. Hopefully many nurses will be able to attend the 2020 Conference to talk with one another and to lean on each other for support, as well as enjoy the wonderful conference!

I look forward to seeing everyone in May 2020!



**Samantha Kennedy
BScN RN**
NENA Board Director -
PEI

ONTARIO REPORT

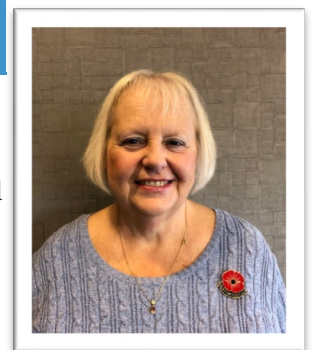
The Ontario government has announced plans for yet another restructuring of the process whereby provincial healthcare delivery is managed.

Ontario's 14 geographical LHINs (Local Health Integration Networks) will be totally disbanded according to Ontario Health Minister, Christine Elliott.

A new system of OHTs (Ontario Health Teams) is being developed with the goal that delivery of care will be more connected to patients in their communities.

The government envisions better coordination between primary care, hospitals and homecare, regardless of where care is provided, with the implementation of this latest plan.

Many issues remain to be finalized about provincial funding, total number of OHTs and accountability.



**Janice L. Spivey
RN ENC(C) CEN**
NENA Board
Director - Ontario

According to Health Quality Ontario,

1. “average wait times at Ontario hospitals set a new record in June of 2019”.
2. “ED waits averaged at 16.3 hours, an increase from 14.4 hours in June of 2018”.
3. “34% of patients were admitted from the ED within the provincial target of 8 hours”.
4. “ED patients waited an average of 1.6 hours prior to being assessed by a physician”.

Ontario Premier, Doug Ford has pledged to end “hallway medicine / use of areas not appropriate for patient care” by July of 2020.

Ontario Registered Nurse and Canadian representative, Valerie Rzepka has joined the BOD of WADEM (World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine) Nursing Special Interest Group. Her role will include working with an international team of nursing experts to improve practice and knowledge of disaster nursing. Val also continues to serve as the executive director for CMAT (Canadian Medical Assistance Team), a humanitarian relief organization.

In September 2019 the Ontario publication, Hospital News published an article “Electronic Triage Support Tool Continues to Grow, Support Consistency” about the provincial journey to further assist Triage Nurses with the assignment of the most accurate CTAS score. As of August of 2019, 107 Ontario hospitals were using e-CTAS, resulting in 85% of all Ontario ED patients being triaged using the tool. Results have shown a 17% improvement in triage accuracy. E-CTAS is proving to be a valuable tool to compliment CTAS education and training in Ontario.

ENAO has proudly provided financial \$ reimbursement of the early-bird member registration fee for the NENA 2019 conference in Saint John, NB to 10 qualifying Ontario NENA members.

MANITOBA REPORT

Consolidation of health services continues in our province:

With our first Winnipeg ED closure occurring in 2017 as the Victoria General Hospital transitioned from an ED to Urgent care, we transitioned two more EDs this past summer in Winnipeg.

The Concordia Hospital in Winnipeg was slated to close in June this year. The closure (in consultation with Dr. Peachey) saw a last minute change in plan, resulting in a decision to transition the ED instead to an Urgent Care on June 3rd 2019.

This change in plan created some staffing challenges in the system at tertiary sites that needed to expand their bed base to account for the ED bed closures throughout the city. Some of the staff from the closing site that were scheduled to transition to a tertiary ED, ended up staying at their site in Urgent Care. Additional hiring strategies were employed for the tertiary sites.

The Seven Oaks ED in Winnipeg was initially scheduled to transition to an urgent care in September, however the transition occurred earlier than anticipated on July 22nd, 2019.

In addition to these changes we have seen ICU closures at our community hospitals.

Manitoba nurses are seeing increased workloads, excessive overtime and staffing shortages with mandating.

This September, our provincial election resulted in a Conservative government being re-elected as a majority government.

We have also seen a consolidation of unions within our province as Bill 29 brought forward the representation vote which occurred in August 2019.



Cheryl Swanson
NENA Board Director-
Manitoba

All Nurses in Manitoba are now represented by the Manitoba Nurses Union (MNU).

Manitoba nurses have been without a collective agreement since 2017, and negotiations for a new collective agreement have been stalled with Bill 28, pending the results of the representation vote.

Amidst all these changes, NENA-MB is well underway in planning for the National NENA conference which will take place in Winnipeg May 1st-May 3rd this year. We have chosen our theme:

‘empowERed 2020’

to highlight positivity, strength and resiliency as we continue to emerge through all the change in our provincial health care system.

As Manitoba members, we are excited to showcase our city. The conference committee has already been working hard in securing the venue, social evenings, and many more details.

An AGM was held in April, with proposals to update both our name and logo.

Our provincial association voted in August to update our name from EDNA (Emergency Department Nurses Association) to NENA-MB (National Emergency Nurses Association, Manitoba), and our members are currently voting on three new logo options. The new logo will be announced at our Fall Educational Evening on November 28th 2019.

We would like to extend an invite to all emergency nurses in Canada, to join us on May 1st-3rd 2020, we want to see you in Winnipeg!

SASKATCHEWAN REPORT

As of Nov 4th - our membership has risen from 61 to 79 members. SENG is currently organizing a draw for current and new members who are active as of Oct 31 – all names will be entered in for a free NENA conference (conference fee only) in Winnipeg in 2020.

We are in the final stages of planning our first SENG conference/AGM in 3 years. It will be held on Nov 29th in Saskatoon. The conference planning committee has been really active with getting some local speakers in to talk, as well as promoting the conference through social media, twitter, posters, etc. So far, we have 60 registrants for the conference at the end of Nov. Cost of the conference was \$10.00 for NENA/SENG members and \$40.00 for non – members. Lunch is included with the conference fee as well.

The Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital opened in Saskatoon on Sept 29th – and with it saw the opening of both the Children’s Emergency Department and the moving of the adult emergency department to the new building. It sounds like the move went very smoothly!

SENG president Sherry Culham got together with a few emergency nurses and one very talented photographer (who is also an emergency room nurse), and, with the help of the Dilawri Simulation Center, managed to do a photoshoot featuring emergency nursing. These images were used for our Facebook page, twitter account, and on some of the posters that were for our upcoming conference.

We are just in the final stages of securing Emergency Nursing Orientation 3.0 from Elsevier which will move the SHA to a standardized emergency nursing orientation throughout the health authority. This will make a huge impact on Emergency education available to the rural and northern sites.



**Kristy Waffle RN BScN
ENC(C)**

NENA Board Director -
Saskatchewan

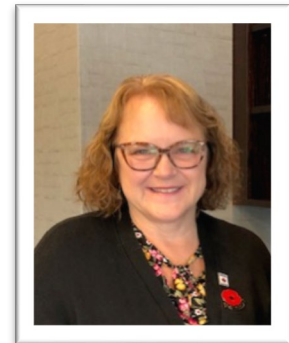
ALBERTA REPORT

Our AGM was held this year October 19,2019 at the Meet in the Middle Conference ‘What’s in Your Bug Out Bag” in Red Deer. This was presided over by the NENA-AB President Dawn Peta. We had elections for our President Elect and for Communications Officer as well as appointment of a Director of Education who will be focused on TNCC and ENPC in Alberta. This was a position the Executive felt necessary to ensure regional access to TNCC and ENPC for the members of NENA across Alberta.

NENA-AB has Regional Representatives from all corners of our province to ensure we are meeting our members needs. This is a very important part of our organization as members are spread out and a majority are in rural areas. A team building event was held in September for the Regional Reps and Executive of NENA-AB to meet and brainstorm future endeavors.

This year for Emergency Nurses Week, NENA-AB Executive and Regional Reps made road trips to all of our provinces’ health centers that have Emergency Services and brought gifts in recognition of their care and hard work. It was an exceedingly successful venture that we hope to continue annually. We are endeavoring to be more visible in our province and hopefully generating more members.

As with previous years, NENA-AB has put our support behind a charitable non-profit organization that provides healthcare/education and support to those in need. Check out TANGO.ca, this is a group centered in Taber, Alberta and has members of NENA-AB on their Board of Directors.



Pat Mercer-Deadman
RN ENC(C)
NENA Board Director-
Alberta

BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

ENABC has had a busy fall with a successful conference and AGM. ENABC manages a engaging Facebook page.



Sherry Morrish RN
NENA Board Director- British Columbia

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENTS

Let me introduce **Rebecca Reid** from Inuvik, NT. Rebecca is on the NENA Board of Directors representing the Independents.

Rebecca began her journey in this role in November and has plans for increasing our Independent membership and giving them a bigger voice.



DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Transition to ENPC 5th Edition and TNCC 8th Edition has occurred across Canada over this past year. Congratulations to those instructors who have updated to the new editions of each course and thank you for continuing to disseminate TNCC & ENPC across the country.

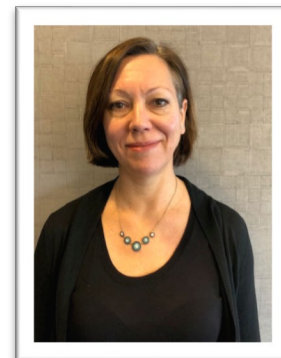
Discussions with the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) have resumed regarding French Translation of both courses for use in Canada. They are actively working on translating the 8th Edition of TNCC with an initial draft of the course materials and textbook likely ready by end of January 2020!!! ENA representatives met with the NENA Board at the November Board meetings regarding improving relationships and promoting TNCC & ENPC in Canada.

The new International Course Administration Committee is actively working on revising the Canadian Course Administration Manual (otherwise known as the ICAC Manual). When revisions are complete, the manual will be translated into French. The Canadian Course Administration Manual can be found on the NENA website under the courses tab.

Your International Course Administration Committee is:

- Western Canada Rep (BC,AB, MB) – Monica De Rui (BC)
- Central Canada Rep (ON, SK) – Nada Melendez-Duke (SK)
- 1 Eastern Canada Rep (NB,NS,PEI,NL) – Stacey McEachern (NB)
- Quebec/Ind (YK, NWT, Nunavut) – Julie Michaud (NB)

To connect with your ICAC reps please email courses@nena.ca



Marie Grandmont RN, BN, ENC(C)
NENA Director of Education

CTAS is growing nationally and internationally. In Canada, there are over 400 CTAS instructors and many provinces have 2-3 CTAS instructor trainers. Special interest in CTAS courses include Health Canada and Pre-hospital groups. CTAS has a special version for Obstetric units called OTAS. There is national and international interest in dissemination of OTAS – Obstetric Triage Acuity Scale a hybrid using CTAS.

CTAS NENA representatives continue to support CTAS instructors daily with fast and efficient service at ctas@nena.ca. Our inquiries include helping nurses looking for a CTAS course in their local area and providing guidance on how to become a CTAS instructor.

Much of the work in the last year has been to finalize the revised CTAS course and educational materials. The work is almost completed. Release of the revised CTAS learning and instructor materials is still pending. There are some issues that require legal consultation for all parties involved in the CTAS National Working Group and beyond before the release of the educational materials. NENA is a vital part of CTAS dissemination in Canada and continues to pursue these issues in collaboration with all groups involved.

Thank you for your patience. It has been a difficult year to work through the issues and continue to strive for a resolution soon. Continue to book your courses at ctas@caep.ca. You can include the updates in your CTAS courses.

Report submitted by Margaret Dymond on behalf of the CTAS National Working Group.

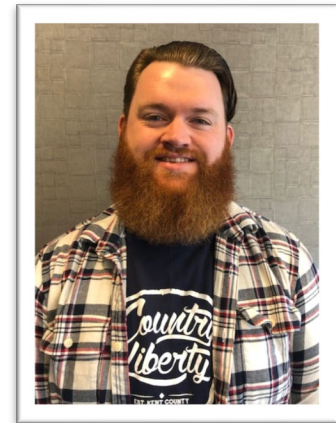
Margaret Dymond
Clinical Nurse Educator
Emergency Department
University of Alberta Hospital

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Some time ago, after hearing feedback from the membership, the NENA board decided to undertake changes to the website. A committee has been formed, and our first meeting has occurred. We also sent out a survey to establish our goals for the new website. We are in the process of compiling the survey data into workable goals, but there are some things that are clearly a priority for the members, and the committee: A current, active, mobile friendly website that provides a communication (relevant updates, provincial areas, and social media) and education (links for NENA endorsed courses, podcasts, and other FOAMed and FOANed resources) hub for our members. We are actively committed to pursuing this, and thank you for your participation as we work to improve our online presence. Stay tuned for further updates.

If you missed having your say in the survey and would like to tell us about your hopes for the NENA website, send us an email-

President@NENA.ca



Joe Carr BN/RN, C-CCN, ENC(C)
Critical Care Flight Nurse
Twitter: @ERFLIGHTNURSE

CJEN

We did not have a spring 2019 edition of the journal because of lack of publishable submissions. The Fall/Winter 2019 edition was published and mailed to the membership. Matthew Douma, CJEN Editor, has projected that the spring edition will be out in March 2020.

Matt has built a CJEN website and workflow at www.CJEN.ca. Facebook page is up and Twitter is coming.

Exciting things are happening for CJEN. Check out the CJEN website and see how you can be a part of this.



Matthew Douma
CJEN Editor

NENA CERTIFICATION

1061 Canadian Emergency Nurses holding the ENC(C) credential! Congratulations!

NENA Certification Committee:

Fraser MacKinnon (BC), Kitty Murray (BC), Janet Roth (ON), Leanne Tyler (ON), Janice Spivey (ON) – Chair

CPAC (Certification Program Advisory Council) continues to meet by ZOOM Q 1–2 months.

Most CNA and certification information and various surveys are forwarded to the NENA BOD by the NENA President and myself throughout the year.

The **Canadian Emergency Nursing Certification Exam Prep Course**, remains available for download “free of charge”. (<https://www.openlearning.com/courses/emergency-nursing-exam-prep-course>)

Since this online program was launched on July 1, 2017, there have been **1609 total enrollments** internationally. Of those, there were **1244 Canadian enrollments**.

CNA Specialty Certification Updates:

Retiring exams after 2019 in Gastroenterology, Neuroscience, Orthopedics, Peri-anesthesia and Rehabilitation. (current credentials may be maintained by continuous learning in the future only)

New exams in 2019 in Critical Care Paediatrics and Paediatrics for RNs, and Gerontology for LPNs / RPNs.

New exams in 2020 in Hospice/Palliative Care, Psychiatry/Mental Health, Wound Ostomy/Continence, and Medical/Surgical Nursing for LPNs / RPNs.

New exam development due again in fall 2019: Community Health, Emergency and Perioperative.

New ENC(C) exam: on behalf of CNA, NENA had put out a call to all ENC(C) Canadian Nurses, seeking interested candidates to participate on future exam creation committees. The names of 27 interested ENC(C) nurses who were also NENA members were provided to CNA.

Emergency Nursing Certification Stats:

257 Canadian Emergency Nurses holding the ENC(C) credential were due to recertify in 2019.

55 candidates wrote the 2019 initial certification exam, **53** candidates renewed by Continuous Learning.

Of those **108** ENC(C) Emergency Nurses, **62** granted CNA permission to release their names and contact information to NENA following successful completion.

Over this past summer, congratulatory letters were sent to all 62 nurses, on behalf of NENA.

Across all specialties, the trend shows a 50% decrease in renewals of the totals due to recertify.

CNA Certifications: “Number of Valid CNA Certifications by Specialty & Province/Territory document sent to BOD. (unchanged since Jan. 31, 2019 since the 2019 November exams & Continuous Learning numbers have not been compiled yet)

NENA/CNA Certification Discount: in conjunction with the specialty organizations, in 2019 CNA created an initiative whereby eligible candidates could request and qualify for a 20% certification exam or renewal discount. Eligible candidates who met CNA’s set criteria, were given the discount voucher code. CNA has decided to continue the specialty membership discount option for certification new exam writing & renewals in 2020- great news!