



**What's  
New  
with  
CFNU**

## CFNU anticipates busy year of projects

OTTAWA—The CFNU is anticipating the release of several exciting and important research publications this year.

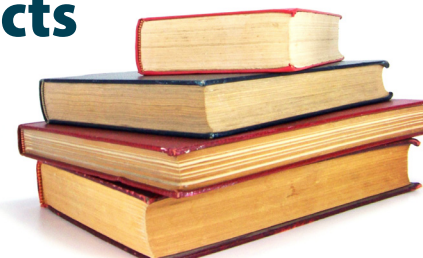
This fall the CFNU will publish a collection of interviews with experts on continuing care. Each expert will be asked for a personal evaluation of the key issues facing long-term care and home care in Canada, along with a prescription for the future. The publication is meant to be a call to action on the subject.

Also in the fall, the CFNU will host a think tank to promote the value of nursing. Both the practices that are detrimental to nursing and therefore

form the challenges we face, as well as promising practices that represent potential opportunities will be examined.

Following on CFNU's publication on intergenerational diversity in the workplace, CFNU intends to produce a handbook on the topic.

Almost daily we face a chorus of advocates of privatization, all claiming



that medicare is unsustainable and how their solution – radical privatization and reduced care – is the panacea for all that ails the system. CFNU will present a factual counterpoint to the debate which is now framed by the self-interest of would-be profiteers.

**Member  
Org  
Flash**

## CFNU Member organizations now in bargaining

EDMONTON—The United Nurses of Alberta and the Manitoba Nurses' Union are both in collective agreement negotiations with their respective employers. Early in April, the United Nurses of Alberta asked for mediation. UNA president, Heather Smith, said that, while a request for mediation this early in the process was rare, there was no choice given the number of employer proposals for rollbacks and a failure to even get to the core issues in the early discussions. Despite this, the UNA president was confident that an agreement could be reached although the challenges are significant.

WINNIPEG— Also in bargaining, the

Manitoba Nurses' Union is likewise finding employer resistance to union concerns. Outstanding issues include wages and cost-of-living provisions for pensions.

CHARLOTTETOWN— As a result of a 2009 arbitration award, the PEI Nurses' Union and the government returned to the table to discuss wages for the final year of the contract. No progress was made as the Union concluded that the government had little interest in the need to retain and recruit more nurses in the province. The PEINU has requested conciliation.

Meanwhile, PEINU president, Barbara Brookins, is speaking directly to

the public about implications of a new model of care that would impact severely on health care in the province. (Visit [www.peinu.ca](http://www.peinu.ca) for more information.)

QUEBEC— The FIQ (Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec) is also "negotiating with a government that fails to understand the realities of nursing," says Linda Silas. In a letter of support from the CFNU, Linda Silas drew attention to the parallels between the negotiations in Quebec and those taking place in Manitoba and Alberta. Silas also spoke at a demonstration in support of the FIQ in Quebec city on April 29.

**News**

## International Council of Nurses celebrates nurses' day and week

GENEVA— International Nurses Day is May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The International Council of Nurses commemorates the day with an International Nurses' Day (IND) kit that contains educational and public information materials for use

by nurses everywhere. The IND theme for 2010 is: Delivering Quality, Serving Communities: Nurses Leading Chronic Care. The content of this year's kit, including the poster image, are posted in the ICN website as downloadable documents. We encourage nurses

everywhere to make extended use of the Delivering Quality, Serving Communities: Nurses Leading Chronic Care kit throughout the year, through individual action and group activities. Please visit: <http://www.icn.ch/indkit.htm>.



## News

### CFNU marks CLC Day of Mourning

OTTAWA— April 28 was the day of morning, marked by the Canadian Labour Congress, for workers across Canada who have lost their lives or have been seriously injured at work. Here is an excerpt from CLC president Ken Georgetti's Day of Morning Message:

*The slogan for the CLC National Day of Mourning, 'Is today the day you die at work?' asks, why is it that so many Canadians unjustly lose their life?*

*Sadly, for 2008, the most recent year for which we have statistics, 1,036 Canadians lost their lives because of their work.*

*This is the reason why Canada's workplaces claim a growing number of lives every year; the laws are not enforced, so reckless employers are allowed to carry on without consequence.*

*It's time for the federal government and the provincial and territorial governments to appoint special prosecutors to lay charges under the Criminal Code against employers when their actions cause death or serious injury. More inspectors must be hired to ensure employers comply with the law. Government regulators must be held accountable for this carnage that seems to go unchecked.*

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions stands in solidarity with all those who have lost loved ones at work or have been injured on the job. We especially think of nurses who have been injured at work. It pains us that so many of these tragedies were preventable and occurred only because nurses lacked the resources needed to keep them safe. As we have so often said, the safety of our members is not negotiable. The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions continues to press for safer workplaces and safer working conditions for nurses.

## News

### Head of Australian nurses to become national trade union leader

MELBOURNE— Ged Kearney, current secretary of the Australian Nurses Federation (ANF), has been elected unopposed as the new president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). After having led the ANF since 2008 and been part of the leadership team there for the past six years, Kearney was seen as an ideal replacement for

the outgoing Sharan Burrow who is to become General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation based in Brussels.

Many of the priorities Kearney brought to the ANF would be familiar to nurses in Canada. Kearney has pressed for health professionals to go along with expansions in beds in Australian

hospitals, the retention of nurses, better provision for elder care, workloads and better nurse-patient ratios.

The CFNU congratulates Kearney on her election and wishes her the best of success.

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## News

### Coalition of health care organizations speaks out in favour of gun control

OTTAWA— A broad coalition of health care organizations, including the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, has come together to issue a statement in favour of the retention of the federal gun registry. The coalition includes nurses, doctors, public health associations, and prominent individuals in the field of health.

The statement adds to the more widely known arguments in favour of the registry by reminding Canadians

that gun deaths in Canada are mostly suicides. "The vast majority of firearm deaths in Canada are not gang related but occur when an ordinary citizen becomes suicidal or violent... When firearms are available, domestic homicides are more likely to involve multiple victims and end in suicide."

The statement provides specifics about the successes of the registry including references to the sources of

the information. You can read the entire statement here:

<http://www.nursesunions.ca/news/firearms-control-and-injury-prevention-the-firearms-registry-good-investment>



<http://www.nursesunions.ca/international-solidarity>