

# **GNAO Nominees Statement of Interest**

## **Professional Advocacy Chair**

*3 candidates: Jennifer Calver; Sara Clemens; Sandra Tully*

### **Jennifer Calver**

My name is Jen Calver, and I have been a highly involved member of the Gerontological Nursing Association of Ontario for several years. For the past three years I have had the privilege of serving the central east chapter executive as the Professional Advocacy chair. In this role I have had the opportunity to facilitate and advocate for GNAO activities. I have advocated for the care of older adults, disseminated information, and engaged with nurses and health allies who participate in the care of older adults. The positive experience I have had with this role has encouraged me to formally submit my letter of intent to apply for the role of the Professional Advocacy Director with the Provincial Board.

I believe that I can bring a fresh perspective and extend my contributions as a Professional Advocate to support the collective leadership and strategic planning activities of the board of directors. In addition to my experience providing direct nursing care to older adults, I have concentrated the past 5 years on building upon my professional skills and competencies in health policy, health service research, and intra/interprofessional collaboration for integrated care. I have demonstrated extensive knowledge in these areas through my collaborative involvement with many multidisciplinary teams across Canada who came together to develop, audit, and revise nursing regulatory and certification exams, gerontological nursing practice standards and guidelines, and quality improvement programs. These experiences position me well to understand the current trends and challenges facing older adults and the people who participate in their care.

If appointed the role of the Professional Advocacy Director on the board, I would work with other board members to address concerns related to gerontological nurses, the care of older adults, and the health care system. I would seek opportunities to connect with chapters on professional advocacy issues and engage with other stakeholders to strengthen GNAO's position and voice to foster positive outcomes in support of gerontological nurses and the care of older adults. Please consider me for the position of the Professional Advocacy Director.

### **Sara Clemens**

I am very interested in becoming GNAO's Professional Advocacy Director as I would like to contribute what I have learned from my PhD (focused on senior care policy, management and evaluation), my work with HQO (focused on long-term care quality improvement strategies), and my work at RNAO as a policy analyst and Director of Nursing and Health Policy. I'm currently very interested in advocating for seniors during the Covid-19 pandemic, considering GNAO's policy response and recommendations following the LTC inquiry and developing policy frameworks for RNs who may eventually prescribe in senior care settings.

**Sandra Tully**

I am interested in applying for the Professional Advocacy Director position within the GNA. I have just retired from my Acute Care Nurse Practitioner position and see this as a way I can continue to promote nursing. As an advocate I would see my role as understanding the needs of nurses and participate in making decisions with them to provide for their needs and expectations.

I have been a geriatric advocate throughout my entire nursing career, spanning over more than 40 years. I am a member of GNA, the RNAO and the Canadian Geriatric Society. My graduate degree is in adult education. I am an educator, clinician and a researcher. All this combined will enable me to plan professional care and guidance to nurses working in the field of geriatrics.

My specialized clinical activities in geriatrics have included care of the older adult, fall safety and skin health.

In 2005, I was honoured to be the recipient of an honorary lifetime member of the GNA. This award valued my contribution and support of the GNA. I continue to be an active member of the GNAA Journal. I have been on the editorial committee over many years. The prestigious Esther and Saul Baker Awards are presented annually to clinicians and medical trainees in recognition of their excellent and outstanding contributions in the care of older patients across Mount Sinai and the University Health Network Hospitals. Since 1995, outstanding medical residents, nurses and allied health professionals at the University Health Network who demonstrate excellence and outstanding contributions in the care of older patients have been continually honoured with this distinguished award. I was honored to receive this award in the academic year of 2005-2006. In 2014 I was nominated for the Nightingale award. The certificate I received stated that I had touched the lives of others in a special and meaningful way.

If I am successfully chosen to act as the Professional Advocacy Director, I would endeavour to work on the behalf of health care staff working in the field of geriatrics by representing their wishes and needs and taking appropriate action to actualize their wishes.

## **Student New Grad Liaison**

### Sarah Slack

I am putting my name forward to continue in my position as student liaison for the GNAO provincial chapter. I am currently a third-year nursing student at Laurentian University and am working towards completing my BScN as well as my minor in gerontology. My future goal in my nursing career is to specialize in working with the geriatric population. I have always had a passion to serve the older adult community and have continued to seek opportunities to gain knowledge and experience in this specialization. Thank you for your time and consideration. It would be a privilege to continue to be part of the GNAO executive.

## **Membership Chair**

### Kristine Newman

I am an associate professor at DCSN at Ryerson University. I have a geriatric rehab nursing background and complete research for dementia, and young Carers initiatives.

I have been previously the Membership Co-chair and left the position while on maternity leave in the past year. I think we have good opportunities to work on an intergenerational basis. I have been working on a project with a colleague to understand geriatric nurses needs and supports required to assist young Carers. We were going to survey membership at the next GNAO conference. (This survey was completed by those who attended AGM last year - we need more RNs in the sample). This project intends to support NPs, RNs and RPNs and we hope to partner with RPNAO, NPAO and GNAO to create useful resource. I am also in the process of creating emergency preparedness resources for young Carers to assist them through Covid-19 pandemic. I hope to engage membership through projects such as these mentioned.