



My Story: Yvette Laforêt-Fliesser

Name: Yvette Laforêt-Fliesser

Area of Practice: Independent Consultant, Community and Public Health

Town: London Province: Ontario

When did I join?

I have been a member of CHNC since 1987. When the Community Health Nurses Initiatives Group (CHNIG) was formed in 1978 as a clinical interest group of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO), I joined immediately because even back then, I believed that there was something very unique and challenging about being a CHN and I wanted to learn and develop my knowledge and skills in community health nursing. CHNC Updates were always included in quarterly CHNIG Newsletters and I enjoyed feeling connected to a national network of CHNs across Canada. I always looked forward to reading about the work of CHNs in other provinces and territories.

Why do you think CHNC membership is a benefit to Community Health Nurses?

There are many benefits to belonging to CHNC: 1) Networking with colleagues at conferences, meetings and on-line to share best practices and knowledge and to help me as a CHN educator, manager and more recently, a consultant. 2) Professional development opportunities that are free to members or at a reduced rate. 3) Participating in a number of initiatives to support and strengthen education, practice, administration and research in community health nursing in Canada. For me these initiatives included the development of standards of practice for community health nursing, the development of a CHN certification exam through C.N.A., developing educational and practice resources for CHNs through CHNC committee and project work. 4) Receiving CHNC communications by email and on its website. Feeling connected to CHNs across the country.

What are the benefits for you as a member of CHNC?

CHNC has provided me with many rewarding opportunities to become a better CHN through its annual conferences, advocacy and leadership for healthier communities and better programs and services in the home and community. My membership on the

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Executive of CHNIG and on the Board and Executive of CHNC has developed my skills in communication, negotiation and political action. It has been so exciting to work with so many outstanding CHNs from across the country. Committee work on Bylaws & Constitution, Education and Professional Development and Communications and Membership, has provided many avenues to influence community health nursing practice.

My most memorable moment?

My most memorable moment, which I will treasure forever, was attending my first CHNC Board meeting as CHNIG President in October, 2003 when the Canadian Community Health Nursing Standards of Practice were formally released. What a thrill it was to meet the authors of this important document. Since that time, I have worked with so many energetic and passionate CHNs in developing the CHN certification exam and other knowledge products that are strengthening community health nursing and improving the health of Canadians. It has been exciting and rewarding to be part of such a vibrant association of nurses!

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