

## Communications and Education Spring / Summer 2008 Update

*The great aim of education is not knowledge but action. - Herbert Spencer*

Spring 2008 has been a time of newness and change for our region. At our last regional meeting we have elected new positions on the executive and have welcomed several new stewards. Everyone has been engaging with members in our region to engage and inform.

March 8<sup>th</sup> was international women's day celebrated by a special dinner. I was privileged to be sponsored to attend a Justice Institute course on communication. At the beginning of April all the member educators for the province got together for one day of education and updates. It was great to get an idea of ways to make the BUS course more accessible and relevant to members. I was able to share what I had learned about building a communications toolbox and team building with the stewards in our region at the steward planning day.

April 24<sup>th</sup> was our Regional AGM. During the Melissa arranged for an education on toxins. At this presentation we learned about looking for lead in toys to protect our children and to speak up about making change in our country.

During May we celebrated nursing week at Children's and Women's hospital by hosting two Brown Bag drop in days. I would like to make a special thank you to Jez, Shelagh, Maddy and Neil as new active members who really made a terrific effort to make the days go well. Those that attended were able to learn about initiatives from the provincial office, including the over capacity protocol, and the campaign to keep health care public. Members had lots of questions that were answered by the stewards that attended. We also had massages and a great draw for gift cards for those who attended or anyone dropping a line through the website. Everyone appreciated the pizza and snacks. Road shows for long term care facilities for nursing week were held by our chair and steward liaison, Suzie and Dilshad.

Nursing week also was celebrated by our region by sending delegates to the BCNU nurse's conference entitled, "Sharing our Successes: Leading Innovations." Amongst the guest speakers was Linda Silas, president of the Canadian Nurses Federation, Daniel Savoie on ability, and Linda Duxbury on worklife balance and many others. Attendees were impressed and inspired.

The end of this report also heralds the end of my role as executive for communication and education. As of this June, I have passed the reigns onto Gina Ramsay. I wish her all the best and hope she will find satisfaction working with the best region in the BCNU!

Sincerely, Susan Shyluk

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