



Past, Present and Future of Nursing Foot Care in Canada

By Cindy Lazenby RN, Founding Chair of CAFCN/ACIISP (formerly Foot Care Canada)
Abridged from her address to the First CAFCN AGM in Kingston, Ontario on May 29, 2010

1985 to 2005

Foot Care Courses across Canada were not regulated and ranged in their curriculum as much as in their duration anywhere from 8 to 40 hours. Only Quebec had a comprehensive and standardized 90 hour course, managed by their provincial foot care nurse Association (AIIASP). This course increased to 135 hours in 2003.

2005 and 2006

Consultation with national, provincial and local nursing/health associations began in 2005
Foot Care Nurses Network steering committee meetings were held in Brockville and Ottawa, ON

2007 to 2009

National Foot Care Advisory committee meetings were held in:
Kitchener ON (Spring 2007) and 5 Executive Committee members were appointed from Halifax NS, Martintown ON, Kingston ON and 2 from Winnipeg MB.
Winnipeg MB (Fall 2007),
Kingston ON (Spring 2008),
Halifax NS (Fall 2008), and
Winnipeg MB (Fall 2009) with participants from coast to coast.

During the meetings of the National Advisory committee:

Consensus was reached to adopt the name of Foot Care Canada, mission statement and goals (2007- 2008)
Monthly executive committee teleconferences hosted on CAWC's conference bridge. (2007-2009)
Job descriptions for committee members, sponsors and speakers (2007)
11 Provincial Advisors were accepted (2008-2009)
2 DRAFT Logo designs (for Foot Care Canada) (Fall 2009)
3 website domain names secured (2009)

2010

Application for Incorporation as a national non-profit organization sent Feb 1, 2010 and approved by Incorporation Canada on April 15, 2010 with a new bilingual name: Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses Association / canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers en soins de pieds
1st set of Bylaws passed on Feb 8th, 2010 by the board of executives as process for Incorporation
New committee positions drafted for 2010- 2012 (Feb 2010)
1st bank account opened in May 2010 just in time for the 1st National Symposium
Draft Job descriptions for new positions and revisions of existing positions to reflect the larger committee of 2010 - 2012
Plans to begin membership of the CAFCN 2010-2011
1st National Foot Care Symposium May 29, 30, 2010 in Kingston ON
1st Elections at the 1st AGM May 29, 2010, Kingston ON

Under Construction:

Logo for new incorporated bilingual name

Website design

Charitable status application

Policies and Procedures for committee members

Development of guidelines for foot care skills, education and national certification

By Laws

In the Canadian Nurse February 2010 edition, I noticed that novice researchers had similar challenges to the challenges we encountered during the formation of a national foot care association since 2005. I'd like to list our 3 biggest challenges:

Challenges:

Knowledge deficit in administrative duties such as incorporation process, non-profit-organization by laws, website design, and foot care research, guidelines and certification development. Also there- is a large knowledge deficit in public and health care professionals' lack of awareness of the scope of practice and the role a foot care nurse.

Lack of funding to support the administrative duties, teleconferences or travelling to biyearly meetings/conferences.

Time constraints due to full time employment, teaching and personal obligations, prevented the executive and provincial advisors from devoting sufficient time required to attending to the Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses'(CAFCN) numerous volunteer activities that spanned since 2005.

How do we Move Forward?

Collaborate, Mentor and Partner: A team approach is the antidote for many of the challenges. By involving experts such as foot care nurses, foot care nurse educators, nurse researchers, health policy makers, provincial and national nursing, interdisciplinary associations and consultants we can learn much about:

Attracting foot care leaders and stakeholders to become actively involved with Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses
Up to 33 committee positions have been drafted for 2Q10-2012 (previously 16 committee positions were filled).

Mentoring foot care nurses to become active members and leaders within CAFCN.

Advancing CAFCN as a national nursing association.

Advancing Foot Care by actively promoting CAFCN's mission statement and goals.

It has been an honour to be the founding Chair of Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses and to have collaborated with such wonderful colleagues on the executive, provincial advisors and other stakeholders. I hope to remain actively involved as Past Chair and involved with education aspects for the Association.

Cindy Lazenby RN,

Founding Chair (2007- 2010)

Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses/ Association canadienne des infirmieres et infirmiers en soins de pieds (formerly Foot Care Canada)