

Nurses honoured during National Nursing Week, May 11-17

Nurses across the region will be honoured for their contribution to local health care, during annual Nursing Week celebrations. This year's national theme, "Nursing – You Can't Live Without It", highlights the essential and varied roles nurses play across the university hospitals of Kingston.

"Nurses are perhaps best known for the high quality patient care they provide to patients and their families in our clinics and programs, and on the inpatient units," says Eleanor Rivoire, Senior Vice President – Patient Care and Chief Nursing Executive at Kingston General Hospital. "Our nurses are also leaders who are very involved in health care research, education, and administration."

Examples in nurse-led research projects include a study in the Critical Care Program at KGH, where Operational Director Mae Squires (Registered Nurse) achieved a research award to study how nurse leaders can influence the work environment of frontline workers. At Providence Care, RN Chris Scott is leading a HealthForce Ontario program to support career development and coaching for health care staff, and Providence Manor is leading a pilot project to share a nurse practitioner resource across three long-term care homes in Kingston. At Hotel Dieu Hospital, RN Pat Gaudet just wrapped up a special study project geared to enhancing liaison with nurses both pre- and post-operatively for the families of patients, and RN Lidia Robb is contributing to the further development of an electronic documentation system for surgical patients.

"Nurses are essential to local health care," says Marg Atkinson, Chief of Patient Care and Chief Nursing Executive at Hotel Dieu. "Our nurses at our local hospitals and in the community go above and beyond for the people in our care every day. We value and support nurses and want them to know how much they are appreciated."

On Wednesday, May 13, a joint videoconference learning session is scheduled for Hotel Dieu, KGH and Providence Care nurses to focus on what experts call "compassion fatigue". Speaker Francoise Mathieu will talk about the need to be aware of the emotional and physical impact of working in a helping profession, and the importance of taking the time to regenerate.

"We want to raise awareness about the important roles nurses hold within health care, and the aspects of the work that make nursing a rewarding career choice," says Shannon Lewers, professional practice leader at Providence Care's Mental Health Services site. "New nurses have the opportunity to be mentored in specialty areas, such as mental health. There are many opportunities and supports for nurses, right here in our communities."

Working together, Kingston's hospitals provide a continuum of specialized health care in this region. Our teaching hospitals offer leading-edge clinical care, pioneering research and outstanding teaching opportunities through their affiliation with Queen's University. These dynamic partnerships translate into quality patient care for our community.

Media who are interested in attending the joint videoconference at Providence Care's Mental Health Services site on Wednesday, May 13 at 12-12:45 p.m. may contact:

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