In 2012 COHNA-ACIIST is committed to enhancing the OHN profile. COHNA continues to be a link and a resource for our provincial associations. The website, www.cohna-acist.ca as well as the Occupational Health Nursing List-Serv Group continues to assist to disseminate information and host discussion boards.

- In 2012 the Board of Directors continues to meet on a regular basis and strives to keep the members informed of the board’s decisions. Updated minutes of the board meetings can be found on the member’s side of the web-site.
- COHNA welcomed Roxanne McKendry, Alberta’s new representative.
- Events are updated on the web-site on a continuous basis. These events and resources can assist Occupational Health Nurses' (OHNs) in our ever-evolving profession.
- A correspondence tracking sheet as well as a monthly analytic review of the web-site usage is done. The board has been very encouraged with the questions and requests COHNA has been receiving. These requests range from provincial, national and global in nature. The web site has been receiving 800+ hits on the website monthly.
- The COHNA annual board meeting was held on June 08 2011 in Ottawa.
- The Canadian Occupational Health Nurses Association Award of Excellence, was presented to Dr. Suzanne Arnold at the 2011 COHNA Education day.
- 2011 COHNA Education date was held in association with the Ontario Occupational Health Nurses Association (OOHNA).
- Jeannette Combes, COHNA’s treasurer presented at the Atlantic Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference at St Xavier University Nova Scotia. The presentation title was OHN the Final Frontier.
- Brian Verrall attended the meeting on Infection Control Guidelines in Ottawa on behalf of COHNA in February 2011. The guidelines are posted on the members section of the website.
- Request for proposals for updating the COHNA Disability management and Confidential Guidelines have been distributed.
- Two letters have been received from the OOHNA Board with regards to COHNA activities and the direction of proceeding with updating the disability management guidelines. Presently OOHNA is withholding their 2011 membership fees and therefore are not members at this time. OOHNA’s letters as well as COHNA’s response letters can be found on the member section.
- The COHNA representative for the Canadian Nurses Association Associate, Affiliate & Emerging Groups continues to be Doreen Yanick.
- Doreen Yanick will be representing COHNA at the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA's) bi-centennial meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in June.
- Congratulation letters were sent to OHN’s who successfully wrote the Canadian Nurses Association Occupational Health Certification Exam in 2011.
- COHNA was asked to speak at a conference for nurses working with the RCMP which was held in Ottawa in March 2012. I spoke on the COHNA, OHN standards as requested from the group.
COHNA was contacted and assisted with an article regarding workplace injuries and nurses. The article will be in April’s Canadian Nurse Magazine.

As an affiliate member of CNA, COHNA was invited to represent both COHNA and the CNA at the Atlantic Ballet Theatre at the performance of the Ghosts of Violence at the Fredericton Playhouse on January. CNA is major sponsor of Ghosts of Violence. I would encourage you to attend a performance if you have the opportunity. Break the cycle of violence!

At this time the BC Occupational Health Nursing Group has been undergoing some restructuring and have just sent a survey out to our membership questioning the viability of the professional practice group and the membership’s commitment to the association in order to expand the profession. COHNA will continue to communicate with the province and offer assistance whenever possible.

In March of 2012 COHNA updated their information booklet which is on the website. COHNA is now a member of the Canadian Society of Association Executives.

Personally:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Board members and Allison Moore (our COHNA administrator) for their time and effort as we strive to enhance OHN across Canada.

I invite all certified OHN’s to share their knowledge and expertise. A great way to promote our specialty is by submitting your application to the Speakers Corner section on the website. Together we can help support each other as we continue to be leaders in health care in particular occupational, safety, wellness and environmental health.

I continue to be a member of the Work Safe New Brunswick Health and Safety conference planning committee representing the New Brunswick Occupational Health Nurses Group. (NBOHNG) I presently hold the position of treasurer/membership coordinator for NBOHNG.

As a OHN, my main focus is the health, safety, wellbeing, and the prevention of illness and injury at my workplace.

Lastly it is my pleasure to invite you to the 32nd National Conference for Occupational Health Nursing. It has been 12 years since the National Occupational Health Nurses Conference has been in St John's. The "Talk on the Rock" which has been developed by the Association of Occupational Health Nurses Newfoundland Labrador and Work Health Safety Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador will provide you with a wealth of knowledge and practical prevention strategies that you can take back to your workplace and practice regarding known Occupational Health diseases. There is also ample opportunity to network with friends and colleagues.

Karen Mazerolle  BN RN COHN (C)
COHNA President 2011- 2012
Dated April 9, 2012