

IPAC NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO

2015 Executive

President: Terrance Smith
President-elect: Vacant
Secretary: Brenda Dewar
Treasurer: Lori Kraft

2016 Executive

President: Terrance Smith
President-elect: Brenda Dewar
Secretary: Suzanne Pelletier
Treasurer: Lori Kraft

Number of Members: 67

Geographic Area Served:

Northeastern Ontario is the second largest region in Ontario in terms of land area, spanning 31% of the provincial total. Four cities have populations greater than 40000: Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, and Sault Ste. Marie. These four make up less than half of the overall population, with the remainder based in smaller centers, most of which have populations less than 5000 people. The total population is just under 600,000 with a population density just over 2 persons per square kilometer compared to over 100 in southern Ontario.

Membership

The membership is comprised of individuals from diverse educational and professional backgrounds such as nurses, public health inspectors, first responders, front line workers or administrators. These represent a variety of sectors including acute care, long term care, complex continuing care, community/public health, mental health, government (regional infection control network) and industry.

Meetings

We had difficulty scheduling both executive and membership meetings in 2015. Our September meeting was cancelled due to a lack of registration. We had a speaker scheduled for our December 8 meeting, but they had to back out at the last minute. Our meetings generally include both an education component as well as a standard agenda to discuss chapter business. In 2016, we will be trying a different format in an attempt to encourage more people to attend.

Highlights

In 2014, IPAC NEO developed our first five-year chapter Strategic Plan. Our goals reflect those of IPAC Canada, to:

- Raise the profile of the association and its activities
- Expand and develop the membership base
- Enhance the mix of products and services
- Expand the association's education initiatives
- Provide regional leadership

Our strategies to address the goals are pertinent to the chapter membership and geography. Our chapter executive will utilize the strategic plan to guide the work of the chapter.

Our chapter has experienced similar issues to those seen in others throughout the country. We had not been able to maintain a full executive, and began the year 2015 with two vacant positions. Fortunately, we were able to fill these spots, and have a very healthy and active executive going into 2016.

Financially IPAC NEO is quite healthy. Funds have been earmarked for a "scholarship" and the chapter has finalized a policy and procedure for members to apply for those funds to assist with education opportunities.

Our chapter has also been involved with IPAC Canada, with representatives on the Conference Education Committee, the IPAC Canada Chapter Task Force, and the Mentor Program Working Committee.

Terrance Smith RN
Chapter President