

## President's Report

### Exciting Progress

In preparation for the June Newsletter, I've taken an opportunity to look back at the preceding 8 months to consider what your Executive Council and I have done collectively on your behalf. I am astounded and proud at what has been accomplished, what has been initiated and what is on going.

A new series of TV ads kicked off Phase 2 of the multi-faceted MAHCP Marketing Campaign. Beginning in February, the TV ads ran through March. Timed a third of the way through they were joined with Radio ads, which continued until the end of May. Two thirds through the TV ads, the bus ads began and are still circulating on transit buses. This phase of the campaign is focusing on our members and our occupational groups. **We grouped our occupations into three categories: Diagnostic, Therapy/Rehabilitation and Community Health.** In addition, Gerry Barrett of NCI Radio interviewed me. The interview focused on our membership, our occupational groups and our contribution to health care.

Our participation in The Rotary Career Symposium held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre in April linked the imagery and the message of our campaign while providing the students with information on alternative career choices (please see Career Symposium report on page 11). To view the TV ads or to hear the NCI interview go to the MAHCP website and click on the "Manitobans Depend on Us" graphic.

An issue that affects all of us, both as health care providers and as citizens, is the issue of shortages and that topic is part of what I bring forward at every event that I attend. Along with the Executive Council, we continuously work towards raising public awareness on that front. Advocating towards improving and enhancing our public health care system, supported by improved funding, and in conjunction with a national human resource health care strategy, is an ongoing activity. We have heard from many of our members how the shortages are taking a toll. We have heard how tired you are becoming. We believe it can be linked to a direct lack of a cohesive



human resource strategy since the late 1980's. I will continue to address these issues at public forums, in meetings with government, and with media.

MAHCP just recently returned from Ottawa where we participated in the Canadian Health Professionals Secretariat (CHPS) meeting. While in Ottawa, we had pre-arranged a meeting with Judy Wasylycia-Leis MP, the NDP Health Critic. We were fortunate to have Bill Blaikie MP and Deputy Speaker for the House of Commons join our party. It was an excellent opportunity for us to identify our membership to them and the issues facing us, and our role and impact in health care. We will continue to lobby government at both the federal and provincial level.

In our report to CHPS we took the opportunity to show **the Grievance Tracker Timeline that we have developed.** This mechanism provides us with no end of information on the status of grievances. We can track the age of a grievance, what stage it is at, whether or not it is pending arbitration, and if it is closed or open or in abeyance. We can look at grievances by site, region, issue, occupational group and so much more. This tool will be a tremendous benefit to us as an organization and will provide us with a wealth of information. The creation of this tool has been in response to member questions and has been in development for the past couple of years. Kudos and appreciation to Bob Bulloch for making it happen. Bob has put in countless hours to develop this tool for us and it is our intention to show it at the AGM in October.

Strategic planning in January was again a very focused and intense few days. One of the primary focuses for the staff and the Executive Council was the role and function of the Staff Representative. A very comprehensive list of activities and plans resulted from the meeting. A Staff Representative Project Committee was established, comprised of members from both staff and Executive Council.

The committee has to date developed:

1. terms of reference,
2. proofed and revised a Staff Representative Manual,
3. undertaken the planning and organizing of a one day Staff Representative Conference which will precede the AGM on October 16, 2008
4. work has also begun on a contract interpretation manual

There are two streams of activities occurring relating to the role and function of the Staff Representative. The first is in relation to workplace activities and the second is in relation to collective bargaining. Both roles are crucial and distinctly different. **In order to support our Staff Representatives, increased training opportunities are in the works, focus group meetings are planned, and material supports are being developed.** It is anticipated that the work that has been undertaken will take the better part of two years, culminating with the commencement of 2010 bargaining.

Maureen Ayres (Past-President, MAHCP) and myself were honoured and privileged with the invitation to be two of thirty people selected in the province to participate in 2 ½ days of public dialogues. The dialogues were focused on Canada's future and our role in the world at large. Canada's World is a three-year national "citizens" dialogue initiative focused on advancing a new vision for Canada's role in the world. In addition to defining a vision for Canada's international policy, the eight sessions will collectively explore nine issues that relate to specific international policy themes of importance to Canada and the world. Maureen and I continue to be active and involved with the discussions.

I have just touched on a few highlights of what we have undertaken in the past 8 months. If you have any questions regarding this report or have suggestions for future newsletter topics please do not hesitate to contact me. We also welcome ideas from our membership to assist in the exciting work of moving our Union forward. I wish you all a healthy and happy summer and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

In Solidarity

*Wendy*