



RN Luisa Rotulo checks the heart sounds of patient Johanna VanDalen at Hotel-Dieu-Grace Hospital, where she did her undergraduate training thanks to the provincial government's New Graduate Guarantee funding.

- Ed Goodfellow: Special To The Star

Grads for hire

Provincial funding bringing in new nurses

A hospital is a whirlwind of activity. For a newly minted nursing graduate, the first day on the job in such an environment can be very intimidating.

But for 2006 University of Windsor nursing grads Luisa Rotulo and Patrick Kolowicz, the transition was made much easier because they spent the first three months after graduation in paid training at Hotel Dieu-Grace Hospital, thanks to Ontario Ministry of Health's "New Graduate Guarantee" funding.

First unveiled in spring 2006, the program provided 12 weeks of paid training to new nursing graduates to encourage them to stay in the province.

Lynda Monic, director of In-patient Services at Hotel Dieu-Grace Hospital, says the funds were a godsend.

"If I could have wish list, the ability to bring in new nurses through this program would be it. It has helped us keep new grads here, rather than lose them to other

provinces or the U.S. due to lack of positions," she says.

"Once they're here, they become attached to the unit they work in, the staff, the hospital and the organization."

The program builds on the investment the hospital has made while the nurses were students. "We've invested in and trained them for four years. That investment is lost if they move."

Luisa Rotulo, BScN '06, was hired at Hotel-Dieu in July 2006. She had done her undergraduate training in Hotel Dieu's critical cardiac care unit. The government funding meant that she was able to do an internship in telemetry (cardiac care) over three months from June-August 2006.

"It was great because I was guaranteed a full-time position after the internship, and was given a chance to become familiar with the area and receive critical training."

PLEASE SEE NEW GRAD /C9

THE NURSING PROFESSION, BY THE NUMBERS

- Nurses are the largest group of health-care professionals in Canada. In 2004, there were 263,356 registered nurses (RNs) in Canada.
- The average age of an RN is 44.6.
- Just over five per cent of nurses are male.
- Most practising RNs – 62.5 per cent – are employed in hospitals. Other major places of employment include nursing homes, community health centres, home care agencies, educational institutions and

physicians' offices/clinics.

- The ratio of practising RNs to the Canadian population in 2004 was 1:129.
- In 2004, 84.4 per cent of nurses worked in direct patient care, 5.5 per cent in administration, 3.5 per cent in education and 1 per cent in research.

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Workforce Trends of Registered Nurses in Canada, 2004, 2005; Canadian Nurses Association, Planning for the Future: Nursing Human Resource Projections, 2002.

HEALTH GUIDE

SPRING 2007

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George Smitherman, health and long term care minister, and Registered Nurses Association of Ontario executive director Doris Grinspun chat at the group's recent annual general meeting.

Pilot sites set up

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Anesthesia Care Teams will increase access and decrease wait times for surgical procedures by increasing the number of trained anesthesia professionals in the health care system. Nine pilot sites are being established across the province at:

- Halton Healthcare Services
- London Health Sciences Centre
- Royal Victoria Hospital
- Sault Area Hospital
- Southeastern Ontario Medical Organization (Kingston)
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- The Ottawa Hospital
- Toronto East General Hospital
- University Health Network

The government is providing the University of Toronto with funding to establish a joint program between the faculties of Nursing and Medicine to provide a comprehensive curriculum required for

nurse practitioners-anesthesia to participate in the Anesthesia Care Teams.

"We're proud to be a part of this innovative approach to delivering health care," says Sioban Nelson, University of Toronto Dean of Nursing. "Our graduates will fill a great need and make a significant contribution towards strengthening health care in Ontario."

The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences received \$1.35 million to create Ontario's first certificate Anesthesia Assistant Graduate Certificate Program. The first class recently graduated from this 22-week program and some individuals are already working in their new role.

The initiative is part of the Ontario government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

Honouring Our Nurses

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