

REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

2011 Annual General Meeting

Resolution – submitted by Lynda Monik, Essex Chapter

BACKGROUND

In March 1999, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MoHLTC) announced the establishment of a nurse training and education fund known as the Nursing Education Initiative (NEI) for RNs and RPNs.

The fund provides ongoing funding to nurses to increase their knowledge and professional skills to enhance quality of care and services provided within Ontario.

Nurses undertaking professional development course(s) and/or program(s) are eligible for reimbursement of up to \$1500 annually.

Nurses who have not received \$1,500 from this fund are given priority to access funds. Nurses who have received full funding in the previous year(s) will be considered with less priority than those nurses that have not received full funding.

RESOLUTION

Whereas it takes a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks after submission of an NEI application package to receive notification that a nurse's request has been received, processed and is being considered for reimbursement and up to a year before a nurse or her employer receives notification that a nurses submission has been approved or not;

The NEI may actually be viewed as a deterrent for nurses seeking reimbursement for attending educational opportunities, because the length of time for reimbursement can put a financial burden on the nurse or employer;

Be it resolved that RNAO in consultation with other stakeholders including the MoHLTC and the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario undertake a review of the NEI application process with the goal to identify the current state or process and identify a future state or process that provides a more timely response to nurses and employers and includes an evaluative component for nurses and employers to provide feedback about the process.