

## The 2006 World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses

The 2006 RPNC World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses was held in Calgary at the beautiful Westin Hotel, May 11-13<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the 2006 World Congress for Psychiatric Nurses was *“It’s about People - Unleash the Potential.”*

The program planning committee worked hard to secure an eclectic group of speakers to entice the world of psychiatric nurses to this event. From Margot Kidder (or Marggie) as she likes to be called now, to Big Daddy Tazz and David Miller we laughed and we cried as they took us through their journeys into mental illness and back out again. Dale Nikkel entertained us with his insightful music and touched us with his original creation of a song of our own for psychiatric nurses. The Psychiatric Nurses song can be heard and downloaded from the CRPNA website at [www.crpna.ab.ca](http://www.crpna.ab.ca) to enjoy and share with others.

With the more than 40 concurrent sessions and posters, many took advantage to listen, learn and share their thoughts on the vision of what is needed to improve the way mental healthcare is delivered and managed, as many of our own, presented many interesting and varied topics on the three themes, **System** – *Mental Health and Health Convergence and Integration along Life’s Continuum*, **Practice** – *Value and Diversity of Psychiatric Nursing throughout the World* and **People** – *Making Life Work – Moving Forward*.

The congress provided the approximately 400 delegates with practical tools and knowledge that could be used in daily work environments, program delivery and future planning. The Congress also provided an opportunity for mental health and health professionals from Canada and around the world, including the United States and Iceland to network with each other.

The overall feedback received from the conference was outstanding. Examples of the feedback received included:

“I really enjoyed the conference. I feel I learned more and I will bring it back with me and share my learning’s with my co-workers at the hospital.”

“Conference was a good mix of information, entertainment and humour. It was inspirational”

“I really appreciated the focus of the congress being healthy consumers sharing their inspiring stories of suffering, epiphanies and taking responsibility for living well and managing symptoms. Thank you for focusing on personal empowerment”

“One of the best conferences I have ever been too. Bravo!”

“Wouldn’t have missed it for the world”

“Excellent conference, well worth attending”

The congress planning committee (Barbara Lowe, Doug Buist, Elizabeth Taylor, Jennifer Bishop, Delma Austin, Dianne Cameron and Susan Cameron) would like to extend a big thank you to all who volunteered their time to ensure the congress was a success. Without our fabulous volunteers, where would we be? Thank you to all that helped with the running of the conference.

We were entertained, our hearts were touched, we enjoyed, and we learned. The Congress will be a memorable experience for those that participated and will help to enrich the practices of the delegates as we celebrate our passion for what we do.

The 2008 RPNC World Congress is planned for the spring of 2008 in Saskatchewan. We can't wait to “have the time of our lives” as promised by the Saskatchewan organizing committee as they invited us to the next World Congress. See you in 2008!