

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathleen Ferguson RN, BScN, RNFA, CPN(C), ORNAC President, works as an RN First Assistant and is also the ERAS Coordinator at St. Martha's Regional Hospital in Antigonish, NS. She is a past member of the ORNAC Standards Committee, past Chair of the Nominations Committee, and Past President of ORNAC (2015-2017). president@ornac.ca



As 2020 comes to a close we reflect back on what has been a unique and challenging year in both our personal and professional lives. These have been unprecedented times that have caused us to draw on many strengths & qualities. One of those strengths is flexibility. Perioperative nurses across Canada have certainly exhibited this quality as we navigate through this pandemic.

The ORNAC Executive and Board continued to work throughout 2020 in spite of COVID-19. This required the organization to draw on its strengths and to adapt. Our 2020 AGM had to pivot, with very little notice, to become a fully a virtual meeting. With a lot of planning and hard work it was well attended and we received very positive feedback.

With the continued impact of COVID-19 we find ourselves in the same situation with the 2021 ORNAC National Conference. As a result, we will be moving to a Virtual Conference. We know that perioperative nurses need:

- Continuous learning hours to renew their certification through the CNA;
- Current and evidence-based theory to deliver the highest standard in competency-based care;
- To meet their Provincial personal learning requirements;
- A forum for early access to the 2021 ORNAC Standards and

“An important aspect of getting through something difficult is surrounding yourself with people who can help you, have the right skills to do so, and are honest and true in their desire to help.”

- Justin Thomas Miller

discussion with the Standards Committee; and

- Access to information about the latest products, technologies, and services.

This will be ORNAC's first virtual conference so we have engaged individuals with the experience and skill sets to ensure success. ORNAC has a dedicated and committed National Conference Planning Committee and an engaged Board who are fully committed to bringing virtual educational experience to all perioperative nurses. This online venue will allow more perioperative nurses to attend and ensure we do not put any of our members at risk.

Industry also needs to have a way to connect with perioperative nurses and to educate them on their products. We will have a virtual exhibit hall that will allow this to happen. It is all new and very exciting.

In 2020 ORNAC tackled several important issues. We have moved away from a single management model to one with the ORNAC Board and volunteers

more involved. ORNAC has worked with CSA to introduce changes in response to the member survey about purchasing the ORNAC Standards. And we have hired John Gregory, a medical writer, as our ORNAC Standards Coordinator. We have also moved to a rolling membership (365 days from when you join instead of ending with the calendar year) in response to member requests.

This year the ORNAC Board adopted a new strategic plan for 2020-2023. Strategic planning allowed us to assess both where we are and where we want to go. This strategic plan will guide ORNAC's planning, initiatives, and action plans. We also reviewed and updated our Mission, Vision, & Values (see page 4).

ORNAC is well placed to move forward in 2021 with our new strategic plan and following our Mission, Vision, & Values. We are ready for the challenges ahead. 🌟

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathleen Ferguson".