
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathleen Ferguson RN, BScN, RNFA, CPN(C), ORNAC incoming President is the Manager of OR/Perioperative Services at St. Martha's Regional Hospital in Antigonish NS and also works as an RN First Assistant. She is a past member of the ORNAC Standards Committee and past Chair of the Nominations Committee.
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My name is Cathleen Ferguson and I am your new ORNAC President. I am also Past President as I served as ORNAC President from 2015-2017. I am stepping back into the President role for another term due to the fact that the President-Elect had to, unfortunately, step down. Taking on a leadership position can be challenging at anytime but stepping into a vacant position and not having the full term as President Elect to transition into this role is a bit daunting. I made the decision to step forward in order to support ORNAC in a leadership capacity, to bring my previous experience to the position, and to help lead the next phase of ORNAC's development.

I understand ORNAC and its needs and I am committed to moving ORNAC forward by building leadership capacity within the association. Over the next 2 years we will be investing in leadership development. The Board and Executive will re-examine our current strategic plan and build on it to develop a new, clear, focused, plan for the next 24 months and to strengthen ORNAC's position for the next five years. You, the ORNAC members, are our priority and, in leading ORNAC forward, we will be engaging with you and encouraging you to be part of the process to strengthen ORNAC and advance things for you –

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our membership. ORNAC is your association and your involvement helps ensure a strong future for perioperative nursing in Canada. Be active, be informative, be involved and together we will be stronger.

In the spring ORNAC hosted an amazing conference in Halifax, NS, that had incredible attendance, interesting speakers, and wonderful engagement and network among nurses and industry. We look forward to our next conference April 30 to May 4, 2021, in Victoria, BC. The theme of this conference is Charting the Future of Perioperative Practice. Mark the dates and start the ball rolling so that you can attend – and consider submitting an abstract to present or for a poster exhibit. Prepare now to share what you know with perioperative nurses from across the country!

The theme for perioperative nurses week this year is “Unified voice for excellence in patient safety”. This theme not only refers to the unified voice of the perioperative team but the unified voice

of ORNAC. I believe in ORNAC as in its position as the national professional association for perioperative registered nurses and associates across Canada. United we can build a strong future for perioperative nursing in Canada and continue to be the professional voice for our members and for the safety of our patients.

During Perioperative Nurses week please celebrate yourselves and the great work you do on behalf of your patients, their families, and your team every day. Celebrate each other, your co-workers, and your professional associations. Together we advocate for high quality safe patient care. We speak for our patients when they cannot speak for themselves. Be the voice of excellence in your world and you will see how strong we can be. 🍁

Cathleen Ferguson