

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Professionalism in nursing means different things to different people. Some define professionalism as a nurse's knowledge, skill-set and how care is delivered to patients. Others view professionalism as the continuous journey to improve nursing practices, the workplace, and nursing's future. RNAO defines it as "Qualities or typical features of a profession or professional. A collection of attitudes and actions; it suggests knowledge and technical skill."¹

No matter how you define it, professionalism is an essential part of who we are and what we do. All of our regulatory colleges have, in their definition of professionalism, a reference to the adherence, in all roles and practice settings, to Standards of Practice as well as an outline of the behaviours, qualities, values and attitudes that demonstrate the RN is accountable, knowledgeable, visible and ethical.

How do we, as perioperative nurses, achieve and maintain professionalism? There are several ways:

- Read professional journals and discuss what you learn with co-workers. Form a journal club;
- Attend seminars, conferences, and workshops for continuing education;
- Join committees or planning groups at work;
- Take academic classes to continue your formal education;

Professionalism: The conduct, aims or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person.
- Merriam Webster Dictionary

- Become certified in your area of practice - CPN(C);
- Join your professional nursing organisation (ORNAC);
- Mentor other nurses to grow and maintain their careers; and
- Volunteer in your community.

Professionalism is important because it helps ensure quality of patient care, use of best-evidence in practice, competence and safety in a changing world, collegial working relationships with other disciplines, and sharing of limited resources. All these have been the theme of Perioperative Nurses Weeks, provincial and national conferences, and my messages to you over the two years. If you are not yet a member of ORNAC I hope you will join us. And if you are a member already encourage your co-workers to join. ORNAC is the best place to grow your professionalism!

Demonstrate your commitment to professionalism by not only joining but also actively participating in your specialty organization (ORNAC) - See more at: <https://www.cna->

[aiic.ca/en/professional-development/canadian-network-of-nursing-specialties/whats-new-with-the-network/network-news-room/lets-talk-specialties/2013/how-do-rns-demonstrate-to-the-public-that-we-are-professionals#sthash.f1Eewdex.dpuf](https://www.aaic.ca/en/professional-development/canadian-network-of-nursing-specialties/whats-new-with-the-network/network-news-room/lets-talk-specialties/2013/how-do-rns-demonstrate-to-the-public-that-we-are-professionals#sthash.f1Eewdex.dpuf)

As you read this we are very close to THE event of 2019 - the ORNAC National Conference in Halifax. I hope you are as excited as I am for this. A great opportunity to network, get continuing education, and have fun. Visit www.ORNAC.ca for details including useful information on how to justify your attendance to your manager, fundraising ideas, and more. I look forward to seeing you in Halifax.

Barbara Mushayandebvu RN CPN(C)

Reference:

1. https://rnao.ca/sites/rnao-ca/files/storage/related/2304_BPG_Professionalism_summary.pdf 🌟