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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Mushayandebvu RN, CPN(C), is a staff nurse at the Peter Lougheed Centre in Calgary. She has experience in all surgical specialties and has been a Clinical Leader and Clinical Nurse Educator. Her past volunteer roles include ORNAA President, ORNAC Journal Editorial Chair, and Co-Chair of the 2015 ORNAC National Conference. [president@ornac.ca](mailto:president@ornac.ca)



By the time you read this message the seasons will be changing again. We will hopefully have had a great warm (even hot) summer. The leaves will be starting to change colour and the wind will be getting cooler. I love this time of year for the beauty of nature and the dying of the old to make way for future growth in the spring.

What has this got to do with ORNAC? Well change is happening within ORNAC too. Half of the ORNAC Board transitioned to new individuals at the AGM in May and the Board embarked on a new strategic plan shaped by the information collected in the member survey. A new vision will be brought to life through the implementation of the identified priorities. How exciting!!

How do you fit in this picture? In my annual report at the AGM I reiterated what ORNAC is: an organisation of perioperative nurses, for perioperative nurses, and by perioperative nurses.

This is our professional organisation – yours and mine. We all have a part to play and everyone has something to bring to the table. As we move forward I urge you to make sure your voice is heard and contribute to the vision of your professional organisation. Talk to your colleagues about the importance of this organisation to furthering your professional career and, most importantly, to furthering patient safety.

*“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” - Barack Obama*

Start a group in your workplace to help each other understand the ORNAC Standards and Guidelines' within your practice, volunteer to be the hospital rep, write the CNA certification exam or lead a study group for those writing the exam, volunteer on an ORNAC committee. There are so many ways to contribute and your involvement strengthens our association and our profession. Share your passion and be engaged and involved. Without all of us there is no ORNAC. We are in this together.

Our theme for this year's Perioperative Nurses Week (November 5-9) is Advocacy for Our Patients Through Best Practice Initiatives. Patient advocacy is at the very core of what we do and my passion for it stems from my belief that being the patient's advocate is a privilege that should never be taken lightly.

“Surgical patients can be compromised by stress, disease processes, and sedation or general anesthesia, and

they trust that a perioperative nurse will advocate in their best interest to ensure their privacy, dignity, rights and safety.”<sup>1</sup>

We advocate for our patients in many different ways and some seem mundane. Research-based best practices can guide us in being the best advocates for our patients. Learn what these are!

Celebrate the work we do and each other during perioperative nurses week. In the June issue you received a poster promoting this week – get it up in your work place and help promote this important message. It is such an honour and privilege to be on this journey with you all. 🌟

**Reference:**  
(Boyle, 2005, p. 250-251)

*Barbara Mushayandebvu RN CPN(C)*