
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



What an awesome conference for ORNAC's 25th National in Niagara. From the education sessions that inspired and provided continuing education, to the social events that had everyone networking and dancing, this conference will go down in history as one of the best conferences yet. I hope those who were able to attend have great memories and have shared their experiences with those who held down the fort to enable us to attend. Thank you to the 2017 Conference Planning Committee for a job well done.

It was with great sadness that I learned, on May 11th, of the passing of the amazing Muriel Shewchuk. She left us just a week after the conclusion of the conference that she attended, with her daughter Marcia, and at which she provided so much inspiration and entertainment when she spoke with her long-time friend Gloria Stephens about the history of the ORNAC Standards. Those of us at the ORNAC conference in Niagara had a wonderful time with Muriel not knowing this was the last time we would have the pleasure of seeing her.

Muriel was one of the founding members of the Operating Room Nurses of Alberta Association (ORNAA) and of ORNAC itself. She was also instrumental in the writing the first standards for perioperative practice. She was an outstanding educator, administrator and mentor to many in the perioperative world and passionate

about nurse leadership, patient safety, and nurses' continuing education. I have heard her referred to, by many, as the Florence Nightingale of Perioperative Nursing. For more about Muriel see ORNAC's tribute to her on page 50 of this Journal.

I am so blessed to have had Muriel as a mentor who encouraged and pushed me to be the best OR registered nurse and leader that I could be. It was an honour and privilege to be part of the honour guard of perioperative registered nurses from Calgary as Muriel was taken to her final resting place. The perioperative world has lost one of its champions.

Muriel's legacy will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and the many perioperative RNs she inspired. It will also stay with us through ORNAC's Muriel Shewchuk Leadership Award. And her philosophy will even be evident in the theme of this year's Perioperative Nurses Week (November 6 to 10) as it is "Registered Nurses: The Voice of Our Patients". We honour Muriel's memory when we fulfil our role as patient advocates, show leadership in our profession, learn (and teach) at every opportunity, and uphold the ORNAC Standards.

We will miss her dearly but, in many ways, Muriel will never really leave us. 🌻

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Mushayandebvu". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

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