

---

# 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.*

*[president@ornac.ca](mailto:president@ornac.ca)*



A simple definition of passion, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is “a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something”. As ORNAC President I have had the extraordinary experience of meeting perioperative nurses from all across Canada. They are strong, spirited, and positive even in the face of difficult and stressful times.

I found the common theme that prevails across the country is the passion of perioperative nurses. The passion that they have for their patients and their families and the passion that they have for their practice.

Our work fills a large part of our lives so you've got to find what you love to do. The only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you feel is great work. Perioperative nurses have a special calling to provide compassionate, high-quality, and safe care to every patient,

*“It's not how much you do,  
but how much love  
you put in the doing.”  
- Mother Teresa*

every time. My daughter is also a perioperative registered nurse and actually works in the OR at the same hospital as me. She did not choose nursing as her first profession and when she told me she was quitting her job to go back to university and take her nursing degree I was quite surprised. When I asked her how she came to this decision she said she wanted to help people and she wanted a profession that would make her feel passionate about her work. She said that my years working in the OR, and the never waning passion and love I had for my work and my patients, inspired her. I had assumed all she saw was the long hours, the call-backs in the middle of the night, and the time I was away from my family!

It's an honour to be a perioperative nurse. We are blessed to be allowed to share such a vulnerable and emotional time with other human beings. No matter how tired, overworked, and stressed we may be our patients need to see and feel our dedication to their care. Passion is power. You need to channel that power into your practice and continue to make a difference to other people.

Sometimes, though, we have to work to reclaim our passion. I found attending conferences across the country did that for me, as did being

active in my professional organizations where I work with such positive and spirited nurses. What is also inspiring is sharing stories of excellence, compassion, and healing. This Journal allows us to do just that. We need nurses to tell their stories. We have a passionate Editor, Deborah McNamara of Clockwork Communications, who is dedicated to ORNAC and to helping Canadian perioperative nurses tell their stories.

The Journal you are reading is a demonstration of how far passion can take us – it is the largest ORNAC Journal ever published and we are proud of its new look and the fact that it has been fully bilingual for nearly 2 years. We have come far – and our passion will take us further. We look to all of you to share your research and experiences with us – it is our Journal and when we share we make it stronger. Visit our website for information on how to submit an article or article idea.

As we head in to a new year remember to build on your passion every day and always challenge yourself to continue to grow within your profession. 🍁

*Cathleen Ferguson*