

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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ORNAC meets PEI!

PEI perioperative nurses met the ORNAC Board and Executive with open arms in May of this year for the 2016 AGM.

We also had the pleasure of touring the newly renovated and expanded Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in Charlottetown, PEI. QEH is the provincial referral centre for specialized hospital services. The 243-bed facility provides emergency, surgical, in-patient, out-patient, and ambulatory care services.

They recently completed an expansion and now have approximately 21,000 square feet of hospital space. The renovations included:

- Additional patient care spaces in Day Surgery to improve timely access to the service and allow for improved continuity of care. Post-operative patient recovery will now take place within the Day Surgery Department (as opposed to the previous system of post-operative patients being transferred to the surgical nursing unit);
- An increased number of patient care bays in PACU (increased from 10 to 18) will ensure efficient transitioning of elective and emergency surgery patients from the operating room to the recovery area post-surgery. The goal is to minimize delays in the operating room due to patient congestion in PACU;
- A new post-operative caesarian-section patient care bay will be designed to ensure appropriate privacy and allow new mothers to spend time with their baby and partner right after birth – something that has been demonstrated to be important for bonding and breastfeeding; and

- Enhanced infection prevention and control measures, such as an increased number of isolation rooms and the availability of washrooms within the isolation area, to reduce the risk of cross-infection of diseases (such as superbugs).

We were all impressed with this facility!

Now, let's talk about the people! The ORNAC Executive had the pleasure of addressing a room full of the QEH's perioperative nurses and to provide a workshop on ORNAC and what it offers. Thank you to Cathy Griffin (past ORNPEI Provincial Chair) for making this all happen. We learned about the nurses' needs and how ORNAC can better support its PEI membership. We were introduced to the excellent member engagement and recruitment techniques that ORNPEI uses within the hospital to engage perioperative nurses. They do so through the promotion of ORNAC events, highlighting sections from the Standards, prize draws, a membership rebate program, and so much more. It was truly a heart-warming experience and we are most appreciative of these nurses' time and commitment to patient care, each other, and ORNAC's vision, mission and goals.

The next day ORNAC held a "Circle of Safety: Patient Safety and Collaboration" event at the Holman Grand Hotel in downtown Charlottetown. We were warmed to see so many of the new faces from QEH – some of whom had just become members that day (ORNPEI now has over 20 members)!

We had a wonderful show of support from the Maritimes with over 50 nurses



in attendance from Fredericton, Halifax, North Tetagouche, South Tetagouche, Warren Grove, Williamswood and St. Peter's Bay!

On the following day our AGM day started with an education session by Jennifer Rodgers and Bonnie McLeod entitled "Surgical Care Safety: Think National, Act Local" followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Membership where two power point presentations ran simultaneously, one in English and the other in French, including an interactive, voice over presentation from Treasurer Elizabeth Beck. Her presentation was fantastic and she was not even physically in the room when she presented it! The day ended with a presentation from CAMDR on "Bridging the Gap" between the OR and MDR presented by Beth Kingsbury, CAMDR and Rebecca White, CAMDR. ORNAC was pleased to offer the entire AGM and presentations via webinar where 8 people joined remotely in order to experience the day.

Our entire time in PEI was an excellent experience and it will certainly shape the formation of future travelling AGMs. We look forward to bringing this opportunity to your province and to learning more about each other as we collaborate, listen and share.

Thank you to of the members who contributed to the success of the 2016 AGM. We could not have done this without your passion, dedication and commitment! 🌟