
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.

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I hope that you have had a wonderful 2016 so far and I wish you all health and happiness throughout the year.

ORNAC elections for 2016 include the provincial director positions for Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador. Also included are the board positions representing the two seats of Leadership and Education as well as the Board Executive position of Treasurer. It is so exciting to experience the second national election for ORNAC since the rewriting of the ORNAC by-laws. I am pleased and proud of the changes that ORNAC has made in how it elects new members to the board. Having a national election allows each perioperative registered nurse the opportunity to be actively involved in making these important decisions and also offers each member an opportunity to become run for a position that will get them actively involved at the provincial or national level. I look forward to welcoming, and working with, the new ORNAC Directors.

Professional organizations and associations are critical to the generation of energy, flow of ideas, and pro-active work needed to maintain a healthy profession that advocates for the needs of its members, clients and their families. Members are the heart of ORNAC and it is through our activities, energy, and willingness to be involved that ORNAC has developed into a leading national organization. To maintain the strength of our association all perioperative

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nurses must seize every opportunity to be active and involved members and to spread the word about the important work we do every day. Together we are powerful!

Over the past months ORNAC has undergone many changes. We are actively working, along with Executive Director Heather Dow, and the team at Events and Management Plus, on making improvements to ensure that ORNAC is representing and advocating on behalf of the members as best as possible. The ability for ORNAC to communicate quickly with its members is extremely important. Newsletters and e-blasts keep members aware of issues and help explain developments. We have relaunched ORNAC's newsletter "TIMEOUT". I hope that you are all finding the newsletter to be helpful and informative and I welcome any feedback. Our website has also been updated. I know it has been quite a process but with the help of our new management company we are on the right track.

ORNAC has worked very hard toward bilingualism, within the association, in order to represent our English and French speaking members. ORNAC is committed to now providing all

communication, including this Journal, in both official languages. I am very excited to announce that the ORNAC website has also been fully translated and users can now flip between English and French.

I am pleased to share that ORNAC is launching a series of webinars, for members, with information and education on a variety of important topics that are relevant to perioperative nursing. Please keep an eye out for communication regarding dates and times for these fantastic educational opportunities.

As of 2016 we will be moving the Annual General Meeting throughout Canada as we do our best to make sure that all of our members voices can be heard. The next AGM, on May 14th, 2016, will be held in Charlottetown, PEI. I strongly encourage all members to attend and participate.

Together we will have an exciting and successful 2016! 🌟

Cathleen Ferguson