
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Heather Dow, CAE, ORNAC Executive Director
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I am honoured and ready to serve as the next Executive Director of ORNAC and look forward to working with all of you as we take the Association to the next level. It is a privilege to be associated with an organization that, for over 30 years, has been the national voice for Perioperative Registered Nurses across Canada.

With an excellent Board of Directors that is firmly committed to ORNAC's mission, a highly professional and dedicated staff, an array of outstanding organizations with whom we cooperate, and our affiliation with special interest groups, ORNAC is well-positioned to face the challenges that lie ahead.

ORNAC will, moving forward, retain its traditional focus as the national voice for Perioperative Registered Nurses in Canada but will also seek to strengthen the Association's governance, financial reporting, and member recruitment and retention strategies in order to ensure a positive return on investment (ROI) for the association and its members. And it will achieve all of this in both of Canada's official languages.

I am very excited to be associated with ORNAC. There are challenges ahead but opportunities abound. As someone whose life course has been charted, to an important degree, by academic opportunities, including my certification as a Certified Association Executive (CAE), I am convinced that the empowerment of societies is

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measured by the strength of all its members.

I am a firm believer in team work and delegating to those who excel at specific tasks. I am, as a result, proud to introduce the full ORNAC Executive team to you.

Sue Burns, Bsc Physical Education (Honours), is the Executive Assistant of Membership, Social Media and Communication. She is bilingual and has many years' experience in website design and maintenance, database development, membership services, and membership development. Sue was formerly the administrative director of Paddle Canada and currently holds volunteer positions as the Treasurer for the Kingston Volleyball Club and the Kingston District Volleyball Officials Association.

Andras Switzer, (BSCH), is our Executive Assistant of Association Management and will act as the direct liaison between our team and the ORNAC Executive and Board of Directors. Andras holds a Bachelor's degree in Science (Honours) with a Specialization in Kinesiology from

Queen's University. He was the Interim Coordinator, Aquatics Programming, at Queen's University Athletics and Recreation prior to joining Events & Management Plus Inc. Andras' experience includes his role as the Membership Services Associate and Conference Assistant to the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society (CHES).

As you can see, we have put together a strong team to ensure that ORNAC reaches its goals, provides excellent membership service, and achieves the highest possible level of success.

I would like to thank Catherine Harley, past ED, for her assistance and support during this transition. She is a brilliant business woman who has moved ORNAC forward in many positive ways and we wish her well in all of her future endeavours.

At this point you may be asking yourself, "Who IS Heather Dow, the new Executive Director?"

I have extensive experience in the role as Executive Director and Conference Manager for several medical,

educational and legal not-for-profit Associations nationally and internationally. I have been involved with Not-for-Profits and Charities for over 20 years with a large portion of that activity directed towards member recruitment and retention, by-laws and governance, policies and guidelines, advocacy, financial management and communication.

I am fluent in both English and French (born and raised in a French community in the Ottawa Valley and have worked in France as an interpreter) and I have functional Spanish language skills.

My volunteer roles include: Team leader for the Limestone Learning Foundation, Co-Chair for a popular local fundraiser (Kingston-Quinte Motorcycle Ride for Dad), Treasurer, for 20 years, of a large charity (responsible for financial statements, year-end accounting, audits, and payroll) and of a local residents

association, and a Highland Dance teacher with the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance.

In my spare time I can be found hacking through the fields on one of my Tennessee Walking Horses (Dream and Georgie), racing the tracks for autocross or lapping at Shannonville, Mt Tremblant, or Calabogie, touring our great country on my 1100cc Honda Shadow, Highland Dancing wherever the bagpipes sound, watching the sun rise or set at our cottage on the lake in Arden, or my favorite pastime, enjoying time with my husband and four teenage children.

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