
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Catherine Harley, RN, eMBA, outgoing ORNAC Executive Director (July 2010 – July 2015)
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Farewell from Catherine Harley, ORNAC Executive Director

It has been a privilege to serve as your Executive Director for the last five years and it is with a high level of respect that I stepped down from this position in July. This was not an easy decision as my time in this role has been very rewarding. That is, in no small part, thanks to all of you - the dedicated and hard-working perioperative registered nurses that make up the heart and soul of ORNAC. While there is still work ahead (and there always will be as a strong association must continue to grow and expand) I am confident that I have left ORNAC well-positioned for the future and ready to fulfill its responsibilities to the Canadian public with great success.

I feel so fortunate to have worked with an organization as remarkable as ORNAC. The expertise, dedication, and integrity of our people and the unique nature and scope of ORNAC's role make this association truly special. Perioperative Registered Nurses re-commit themselves, every day, to the work of ORNAC, to professional advancement of perioperative nursing, enabling best practice, supporting patient safety, and building collaborative partnerships to fulfil ORNAC's mission. I have worked under three different ORNAC Presidents and facilitated and launched two strategic plans and I know that it is thanks to your dedication and support that we have been able to reach so many milestones over the past five years.

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Together we have worked toward many significant accomplishments. Among them was the rewriting of the ORNAC By-laws to be in compliance with the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act and be granted continuance with Industry Canada in order to secure a strong position for the future. Affiliation agreements were also developed for, and signed by, all ten provincial perioperative nursing organizations in order to create the new Provincial Councils. A national membership database was built and the membership registration process was restructured to a National standardized membership business model.

The ORNAC website was recently re-designed to better support membership communication and strengthen the sustainability of ORNAC. The re-launch of the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal* (CORNJ) as the new, and larger, *ORNAC Journal* took place in 2012 and in June we launched the first fully bilingual issue of the Journal in order to better serve our French speaking members.

A five pillar structure, to better facilitate the work of the ORNAC Board, was implemented with the pillars of Marketing, Research and

Informatics, National Conference Planning, Professional Practice, and Advocacy. A National Conference Planning model was developed in order to better support the planning and implementation of ORNAC National Conferences. The foundation has been laid for the research validation of future editions of the *ORNAC Standards for Perioperative Nursing Practice* and this process is being launched by the Standards committee this year. We have also dedicated significant time and energy toward engaging members in more projects and increasing the focus on being a member-driven association.

The ORNAC Board has been committed to finding new leadership, to step in to my former role, and to ensure ORNAC continues to receive the level of energy, dedication, and care that I was always committed to providing. While this is farewell from me, as your ED, please know that I will always remain an advocate and be committed to championing perioperative registered nursing excellence and patient safety – the strong foundation on which ORNAC is built.

Wishing all of you the very best for your future in perioperative nursing. 🍁