

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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*"To improve is to change; to
be perfect is to change
often."*

- Winston Churchill

Change is important to acknowledge – and equally important to celebrate or mourn. Something dear to me has ended and I am sad about it.

In May 2013 the final class of the Providence Health Care (PHC) Perioperative Nursing Program graduated. This marked the end of a well-known, well-regarded, and ORNAC-approved program. There was an OR program at St. Paul's Hospital (SPH), which is now part of PHC, since the 1930s. The end of this program is a significant change and I feel a sense of loss for something special.

I was, in 1992, a student in this program – known then as the St. Paul's Hospital OR Post-Basic Program for Registered Nurses – and my instructor, Gloria Stephens, was the ORNAC President. From the time I was a nursing student I had heard of the program's great reputation for graduating skilled OR nurses.

Before my current role as the OR Nursing Supervisor, at SPH, I spent 10 years as one of the two educators in the PHC Perioperative Nursing Program. It was a great experience to be part of a reputable, sound, one-of-a-kind program. The educator role was one of the most fulfilling of my career. My thanks to all of those who honoured this historic program by participating in its final celebration.

Now on to another change that is worthy of celebration. ORNAC has entered in to a new and exciting phase in its history. The Association's by-laws have been updated and its new organizational structure has been implemented. There are now five pillars: Professional Practice; Advocacy; National Conference Planning; Research & Informatics; and Marketing. These pillars have been mobilized to allow work to begin in a broad range of areas. Under the Advocacy pillar, for example, ORNAC continues to work with other health care associations to promote safe patient care and to advance

best practices in the operating room. Under the Professional Practice pillar, ORNAC has begun to develop educational material that can be accessed by every perioperative nurse. Under the National Conference Planning pillar a committee has been established and work is underway for the 2015 ORNAC National Conference in Edmonton. Those involved in the Research & Informatics pillar are focused on updating the ORNAC website and improving the availability of all ORNAC communication in both English and French. And finally, under the Marketing pillar, the committee is arranging for the ORNAC label to appear on merchandise and is collaborating on projects with other groups such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

The ORNAC organizational structure is new. In order to perfect its new way of doing business each pillar must continue to evolve. There are many great opportunities for all members to get involved and help ORNAC form and polish its work. If you would like to offer your time, and expertise, please visit www.ornac.ca and submit your name for a project or a pillar. Additional information is also available by contacting a member of the ORNAC Executive (also via the website).

Another significant change for ORNAC is that perioperative nurses will, in the future, join ORNAC directly rather than through the provincial associations. The provincial groups will be amending their by-laws to support this change and several have completed this process allowing nurses from those provinces to join ORNAC directly for the 2014 membership year. ORNAC members will still receive membership in their provincial association and membership will have multiple benefits, at the National and Provincial level, including educational opportunities beyond the biennial conference and the Journal.

2014 holds a lot of promise for growth and change for ORNAC. Get involved now and influence the process. 🍁

Rupinder Khotar