
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karen Frenette, RN, BN, MN, CPN(C), ORNAC President is the Surgical Suite Nurse Manager at Chaleur Regional Hospital, Bathurst, NB, a part time instructor for the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing, Bathurst Campus, and the past Chair of the ORNAC Research Committee.



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The Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2013! For thirty years numerous perioperative Registered Nurses have volunteered their time and energy to ensure safe and efficient care of patients in the perioperative setting as well as to standardize perioperative practices. As I reflect on the history of ORNAC it is evident that the vision of its founding members was remarkable. The first provincial perioperative group, the Operating Room Nurses Association of Quebec, was founded in 1958 under the leadership of Isabelle Adams, Victoire Audit, and Mary Taylor. New perioperative nursing groups were, with guidance from the Quebec leaders, gradually created in other regions across the country. The seed was planted and the need for a national perioperative organization had been identified! In 1983 the Operating Room Nurses Association was launched and its first President was Valerie Shirreff from Ontario.

Thirty years of history for ORNAC also marks the 30th anniversary of this Journal (originally titled Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal). I hope you enjoy reading the sections of this issue of ORNAC Journal that take us back in history. There have been many exemplary individuals who have dedicated their efforts towards improving perioperative nursing through, among other things, this Journal as a national communication tool. Growth has continued over the 30 years to bring us to this point in history... and our future is promising.

ORNAC is presently implementing its strategic plan to set the organization on its journey in to the future. The goal of this new organizational structure is to prepare ORNAC for the future and the challenges faced not only by this organization but by the entire healthcare system. Through my messages, over my term as President, I have been highlighting some of the accomplishments of ORNAC as

well as challenges being faced. Challenges are not a new occurrence in the history of ORNAC. It is by working together as a united group that ORNAC has become, and will continue to be, a strong and viable organization. Taking the time to reflect on the past and embracing our history are vital and important components in setting the path for the future.

Healthcare is not standing still. Nor can ORNAC! ORNAC members face change and challenges on a daily basis in their individual work environments. Standardization of practices and products, cost containment, and keeping up with changes in technology are but a few challenges affecting the perioperative environment. ORNAC's Vision states "The Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) is the leader in perioperative practice and patient safety through a strong, unified national association that enhances and advances the practice of Perioperative Registered Nurses and Associates." To be the leaders in perioperative practice and patient safety we must keep our finger on the pulse of the status of health care in Canada and beyond. ORNAC is a member country of the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses (IFPN). This affiliation will be showcased at the 2013 ORNAC National and International Conference with IFPN to be held in Canada's capital. We encourage perioperative Registered Nurses from coast to coast to attend this great event which will include a celebration of ORNAC's 30 years of history! 🍁

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Frenette". The signature is fluid and cursive.