
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.



The arrival of the month of June marks the completion of the first year of my term as your ORNAC President. It has been a year of transition. June also brings with it the warmth of the summer sun and the beautiful colours of the summer season and is the opportune time to reflect upon the accomplishments and challenges that we have all faced over the past year.

As perioperative practice faces challenges, in this period of economic and fiscal restraint, its impact on ORNAC cannot be ignored. The timing of change within ORNAC is perfect! We must continue to move forward with the implementation of our strategic plan to meet the needs of perioperative registered nurses and create a strong future for perioperative practice. These changes are also required to conform to the new Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act. With change comes uncertainty as we enter uncharted waters and leave the comfort of shore. As a united body, sharing a common vision, we will accept the challenge and reach new and exciting destinations!

As perioperative leaders we are responsible for setting an example and inspiring others to work collaboratively toward a shared vision for the future. I attended a leadership institute, several years ago, and recently reflected on the knowledge that I acquired. The information provided insight into my previous years of practice, as a perioperative registered nurse, and has had a positive impact on the way I have since practiced. Perioperative registered nurses should all be leaders. It is the manner in which we practice, as registered nurses, that develops and maintains our credibility in the eyes of others. We must promote our profession and be able to articulate the importance of the care we provide to our patients, in the operating rooms across our country, and how we do it in a safe and efficient manner.

Change and challenges are not new to the profession of nursing. Perioperative Nursing is, as a result of ongoing advances in technology and new surgical developments, a dynamic and continually changing field. But with change comes tension and uncertainty. As we venture further from the security of the shore, tension mounts. Kouzes and Posner stated:

Without tension, there is no energy, without energy there is no movement, and without movement there is no progress.¹

ORNAC is moving forward. With each step in the transition process we make progress and raise new questions. It is a challenge to look at things from a different perspective. The members of the ORNAC Board are your representatives during this transition. Please communicate with them. If you feel that the shared vision is inconsistent with your personal vision what should you do? The first step is to ask for clarification. Openness and transparency is required throughout each step. ORNAC is, as an organization, looking forward with a common sense of direction (as established in our strategic plan) and a concern for the future of our organization. We are positive about our future! Get involved!

Many operating rooms, from coast to coast, reduce services in the summer months. This will hopefully provide the opportunity for perioperative nurses across the country to reflect upon the opportunities that lie ahead. It is a time to rejuvenate and reflect. Have a safe and enjoyable summer! 🍁

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Frenette".

REFERENCES:

1. Kouzes, J. & Posner, B. *Credibility*. New York: Jossey-Bass 1993. P 249.

As perioperative leaders we are responsible for setting an example and inspiring others to work collaboratively toward a shared vision for the future.
