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President's Message

It has been quite a productive autumn for ORNAC. We are involved in many new initiatives that provide the opportunity to impact on the safety of our patients. ORNAC's belief in the basic values of *Knowledge, Collaboration, Respect, Professionalism and Continuous Quality* serves us well in our association with these initiatives. It is extremely satisfying to realize that our mandate is being further fulfilled through our involvement with various outside entities. ORNAC has been asked to participate in more areas and has responded by providing access to our perioperative expertise and assisting in leading change. We shall attempt to provide guidance and a perioperative perspective at every possible corner.

The leadership opportunities for today's perioperative nurse are vast and ever changing. In a recent discussion about leadership with a younger colleague I learned that she did not view herself as a leader because she had less than 5 years' experience. She believed that a leader required years of experience and a position of power. I, however, see everyone as a leader – we all play a leadership role at one time or another. A leader is someone who guides and gives direction to others. Every one of us is a leader in some way, shape, or form. As nurses we provide leadership to our colleagues (whether they be nurses, doctors or auxiliary staff) and, most importantly, to our patients and their families. Our patients rely on us to guide them through one of the most critical, stressful events of their lives. Their families rely on us to keep their loved ones safe and look to us for direction and reassurance. Demonstrating our respect for our patients, and our belief in utilizing the highest standards of care possible, helps lead our colleagues by giving them direction and motivation.

Recently one of our most visible perioperative nurses – Muriel Shewchuk – retired. Muriel's leadership, dedication to this profession, and commitment to the professional organization has been exemplary. Muriel's accomplishments are well known and she has planted seeds of leadership in perioperative nurses across this country. ORNAC has been extremely fortunate to benefit from her zeal and drive. We are grateful that she plans to remain active with Canadian OR Leaders (CORL) and ORNAC.

"It is clear that strong nursing leadership, from the executive level to the unit level, complimented by maximizing the leadership potential of every nurse, is an essential element to achieve quality care and quality professional practice environments."¹



You have an opportunity to be a leader, in some way, every day. ORNAC wants to help perioperative nurses become leaders and so we are pleased to announce the creation of a **Leadership Fund** in honour of our past, present and future leaders. The criteria for this fund will be developed over the next year with the first presentation at the 2007 ORNAC National Conference.

ORNAC will continue to evolve and to encourage perioperative registered nurses to step up to the leadership role – whether at a federal or a provincial level, or while working at a single healthcare facility, all leaders make a difference.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season. ❁

1. Canadian Nursing Association, Position Statement on Nursing Leadership, 2002. http://www.cna-nurses.ca/can/documents/pdf/publications/PSS9_Nursing_Leadership_June_2002_e.pdf

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