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President's Message

I hope you all enjoyed a safe and happy summer. Time certainly does fly by! As this issue is delivered to your door, read through and see what the conference in Montreal was all about. The conference planning committee did a wonderful job of showing off their city to all 1000+ delegates. From the Opening Ceremony, complete with acrobatics, to the closing speaker, who got all of us dancing, it was a constant whirlwind of culture, education and excitement!

The opportunity for us to come together and recharge is a special time. It is the opportunity to rekindle the spark that allows us to be everything we can be for our patients... and for ourselves.

Each conference we are reminded of how much our environment is changing. During the conference, a group of us talked of the changes we have all seen in our careers...the days of glass IV bottles, metal plates used as return electrode cautery pads, sutures in jars, sponges in metal containers with forceps for delivery on to the field. Now you look and see where we are now! There is a daily barrage of change to our environment.

Perioperative nurses face daily challenges in their attempts to deliver safe and optimum standards of care. There is so much today that we have no control over. It is difficult to maintain standards at the best of times, but when faced with a daily onslaught of changes in structure, product and attitudes, it can be almost overwhelming. How do we maintain our standards and our keep our stress level down in the face of all these changes?

There is an acute need for education. On a daily basis, new products are introduced into our workplace. As many decisions are made for financial reasons, there are operating rooms where new products appear without any input from the staff. We need to insist upon proper education and direction about the use of many of these products. We need to talk to the companies involved and ask them to develop proper in-service education. It is our professional responsibility to ensure we are

properly in-serviced so that we can provide safe and effective care to our patients.

While some professional perioperative associations do endorse various products, ORNAC has never endorsed any products. If you ever have a question about this topic, or about claims being made regarding ORNAC endorsement, please contact us at info@ORNAC.ca.

ORNAC does, however, endorse the use of the *Recommended Standards, Guidelines and Position Statements for Perioperative Registered Nursing Practice*. Module 3 (Safety Risk Prevention and Management) is now available for purchase from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The standards committee is presently reviewing Module 2. If you are interested in getting involved contact Bonnie McLeod at standards@ornac.ca.

I look forward to the next two years as your president. ORNAC has come a long way in its search for excellence. Working together, we can accomplish a lot. If you have an idea for ORNAC please share it. I can always be reached at president@ornac.ca. Have a safe and prosperous autumn. 🍁

Murphy

Marcy McKay, RN CPN(C), is President of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. She is a staff nurse at Victoria, General Hospital, Victoria BC, and is currently the webmaster for www.ornac.ca.

Marcy McKay, infirmière autorisée, CPN(C), est la présidente de l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers de salle d'opération du Canada. Elle est infirmière de soins généraux au Victoria General Hospital, Victoria, C.-B., et est actuellement webmestre du site www.ornac.ca.

