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President's Message

By Mary Knight, RN, BScN, MN, CPN(C)

Fall is upon us - a busy time for all, with another round of activities starting. I hope you will take time to participate in your local perioperative nursing association meetings and events. I look forward to meeting many of you at provincial conferences this fall.

It has been said that nothing is certain except change, and that undoubtedly is true for ORNAC. In June, Gloria Nemecek (AB), *President Elect*, submitted her resignation. She is leaving to assume a position with one of our industry partners and ORNAC wishes her well in her new career. Gloria has made significant contributions to ORNAC, not least being Co-Chair of the very successful 2001 National Conference. According to its By-Laws, the ORNAC Board will elect a President Elect during the next Board meeting in November. That individual will assume the ORNAC Presidency in June 2003, after the National Conference in Winnipeg.

The ORNAC Board is also embarking on a review of its structure and functions at the November Board meeting. The Board has identified four pillars of our organization: the *Recommended Practices for Perioperative Nursing* (often referred to as standards); the *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal*, or CORNJ; the *National Conference*; and, the ORNAC website, www.ornac.ca. The continued success of ORNAC rests squarely upon the strength of this foundation.

Our professional credibility as perioperative nurses rests on our Recommended Practices for Perioperative Nursing, a document widely used across our country. The five year cycle between editions has long been a concern, although the huge amount of work by volunteers to produce this document must also be appreciated and recognized. The fifth edition is due for publication in 2003.

The CORNJ is our professional face to our members and to our nursing colleagues. Assuming ownership of the Journal has provided a wonderful opportunity, but with it

comes an increased workload. Appropriate supports for this endeavour must be built into ORNAC's structure if we want to have a successful enterprise!



The National Conferences are the most important perioperative nursing educational event in Canada. Held every two years, the conference provides the ideal forum for Canadian perioperative nurses to meet face to face, network, get updated on the latest our industry partners have to offer, and find time to rejuvenate!

The website is ORNAC's future as we communicate with the world and especially with our members who more and more expect to communicate via computer.

At the November meeting, the ORNAC Board will deliberate on the best way to ensure these four pillars are firmly grounded and supported. ORNAC's committee structure has become cumbersome and will be streamlined. The Board has already taken the first steps to accomplish this, and will continue the discussion in November.

It is an exciting time to be active in ORNAC! ✨

Mary Knight, RN, BScN, MN, CPN(C), is President of the Operating Room Nurses' Association of Canada. She is the Project/Systems Coordinator, Adult OR, at the Health Sciences Centre, in Winnipeg, MB.

Mary Knight, inf., BScN, MN, CPN(C), est la présidente de l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers de salles d'opération du Canada. Elle est coordonnatrice de projet du bloc opératoire de chirurgie adulte, au Health Sciences Centre, à Winnipeg, Manitoba