

## Greetings from the Chair

Good morning colleagues, ORNAO board members, OPEAC members, dignitaries and guests, welcome to this our 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference for the Operating Room Nurses Association of Ontario. Bienvenue a tous mes collègues français. Mon nom est Joanna Schubert je suis le Président Passé pour ORNAO et comme cette chaise de conférence d'ans je suis votre hôte pour le prochain peu de jours. My name is Joanna Schubert I am the Past President for ORNAO and as this years conference chair I am your host for the next few days. I have been a nurse for 28 years and in the Perioperative environment for 19 years during which time I have spent 15 years representing Perioperative nurses at the Regional, Provincial and National level. Canada as a host of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games was given an opportunity to see the pride, dedication and commitment of the many hundreds of athletes from around the world but more importantly allowed us the ability to gain insight into the drive and passion within these individuals, leading them to this lifetime opportunity. As I reflect on these unique people I am reminded of my own learning and development goals, my commitment to nursing, the perioperative environment, the professional responsibility of every nurse and the drive for realizing excellence. John's and Osterman tell us that reflection allows practitioners time to tell their stories of practice and time to identify confront and resolve the contradictions. When we allow reflection, we allow grasping, interpreting, envisioning, and responding. Strategy drives innovation. Nursing faces an uncertain future but by driving toward the changes in a proactive strategic, outcomes oriented way we face the future better prepared. The Quality Assurance program set out by the College of Nurses of Ontario and the principles of lifelong learning are essential to maintaining competence. Engaging in reflective practice is an important component to continually improving practice and showing commitment to the nursing profession. The college defines practice reflection as an opportunity to determine your strengths and areas you need to improve by reflecting on your practice and obtaining peer input to help you continually improve your competence as a nurse. Professional development opportunities offer each of us a means to create a plan using experience and education to lead us toward our vision, values and goals. Benner described professional development as a way to allow nurses to increase skill level and advance through the levels of competence. Competence implies that a nurse should be accountable for ongoing commitment and to remain current and safe. Commitment requires ongoing enhancement and advancement to specific skills and knowledge that are current and relevant. It is this commitment that exemplifies why nurses are able to deliver safe and effective health care but it is the professional development that requires a pledge to lifelong learning and development. It is my belief that it is this commitment that has brought you to our conference "Empowering Perioperative Nurses 2010; Update your professional practice toolkit".

Betty Shultz, a past President of AORN, reflects on leadership and tells us that leadership is not authority and that it requires a lot less effort to tell someone what to do than inspire him or her to do it. Leaders are not just people with vision they are tactical as well as strategic masters and they create scenarios that persuade others to

follow them. Leadership does not mean getting people to do their job in means getting people to do their best. A leader's true success depends on motivation. Motivation comes from within each individual but can be developed by a leader who has the ability to draw out of an individual the desire to create, achieve and attain the very best. I would describe leaders as having a professional personal image and interpersonal skills, reliable, open minded, ethical, honest, mentors, non judgmental, sensitive and flexible all of which I see when I look out at all of you. When I think of leaders I am also reminded of the goose story. Geese flying in V formation; as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. When a goose falls out of formation it feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back in formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. When the Head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed and finally when a goose gets sick or wounded two other geese fall out with that goose to lend help and protection staying until it is able to fly or until it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own. So if we have as much sense as a goose we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are, we will take turns doing demanding jobs with people, we will honk from behind offering encouragement and we will stand by each other when times are tough. Remembering these lifelong lessons will help the leadership in all of us.

Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Central to this process is providing opportunity that will both build and improve what you have in your professional practice toolkit. The program committee has worked hard to provide you with professional practice updates and learning opportunities to stimulate the leadership qualities in all of you. As the Chair of this conference it is my job to have a positive effect on your motivation creating conditions in which you will want to learn.

On behalf of the ORNAO 2010 Planning Committee I hope you have a great conference making sure that you take every opportunity to update your professional practice toolkit and enjoy the social activities that have been planned for you.

Thank you