

President's message

I had the opportunity to start the week in Ottawa, prior to the national convention, with a very moving experience. On Sunday, May 6, before the NENA board meetings commenced, I was playing "tour guide" for Sheila Early (BC provincial director) and Pat Walsh (Newfoundland/Labrador provincial director). It was a beautiful sunny day as we strolled through the Sparks Street Mall and past the Parliament Buildings. We easily stood out as "true tourists", taking photos at every opportunity.


As we walked behind the War Memorial, a ceremony was in progress to honour Canadians lost at sea. The national anthem began to play and the three of us stood in utter silence and awe. Here we were in Ottawa, the nation's capital, outside of the Parliament Buildings with our national anthem playing! To add to the emotion, we

found ourselves representing the most eastern and western coastal provinces of the country. Was this fate or coincidence?

I will never know, but I do know that I have never been so moved nor felt such a sense of pride and belonging. I have reflected upon this moment often and have come to appreciate and realize that not only are we a powerful and unique nation, but we are also a powerful and unique specialty. Emergency nursing is a specialty and profession that encompasses this country from coast to coast; the profession and specialty that will continue to move forward!

While in Ottawa at the national conference I was inspired and encouraged to see first-hand emergency nurses from across this country meet, connect and unite with a common purpose. I am truly proud to be part of such an honourable

profession! NENA will continue to work together with you, its members, from every corner of this country where an emergency nurse calls home. We will continue to build on the positive momentum and energy that the national conference sparked in two short days.

I encourage each of you to become a catalyst in your workplace by rekindling your own passion. Ignite the spark in others, nurture the embers and watch them slowly illuminate, gain strength and become a roaring inferno. Not one of us knows what the future will hold for us in the specialty of emergency nursing, but the best way for us to predict the future is to invent it! Invent your future and become a voice for health care and emergency nursing in Canada! 

Anne Cessford
RN, BA, BScN, ENC(C)


Certification committee report

The certification committee met the week of March 27-31, 2000 in Ottawa to set the examination given March 31, 2001. I would like to thank the members of the committee who donated their time that week for all their hard work. Committee members also reviewed material prior to the meeting in preparation for that week. The committee is composed of emergency nurses from the following areas, with the following backgrounds:
Administrator: Louanne Kinsella, NF and Helen Grimm, SK

Educator: Meg McDonagh, AB and Catherine McDonald, BC
Staff RN: Darline Cogswell, NB; Audrey Dabreo, QC; and Margaret Pook, ON.

One result of the work that week was the approval of questions for the Preparation Guide that is now available through CNA publications. It will be included in the material sent out to candidates applying to write the examination in 2002. The application deadline for 2002 is November 16, 2001

and the examination will be held Saturday, April 6, 2002.

Currently, a total of 1,193 nurses are certified ENC(C). 

Margaret Pook, RN, ENC(C)

NENA Position Statements and NENA Standards may be purchased for \$20.00. Please contact Jerry Bell, NENA treasurer, for further information.

Outlook

Bouquets

- ✿ **Corleen Muir**, for representing NENA during the National Nursing Forum held in Ottawa in June.
- ✿ **Eileen Denomy**, for her position as CNS in the emergency care program at London Health Sciences Centre.
- ✿ **All the NENA members** who successfully wrote their CNA certification exams in emergency nursing.
- ✿ **All members of the NENA conference planning committee.**

"Bouquets" is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of NENA members. If you would like to send a bouquet to a NENA member, contact the communication officer, Valerie Eden, 34 Bow Street, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4P6 (H) 902 461-1897; (W) 902 465-8340; fax: 902 465-8435; e-mail: nstnl282@fox.nstn.ca.

National trauma committee report

NENA's national trauma committee (NTC) has remained active since the spring. Several meetings have occurred, recommendations were made, and new instructors verified. Significant decisions recently made by the NENA board affect all instructors and course participants. There have been some changes related to NENA's contractual agreement with ENA. A revised contract was presented to the NENA board on May 12. The revised agreement was supported unanimously by all provinces and by all NTC members. Approval of this revised contract places all instructors in a more stable position, and enables all players to plan ahead. There are some revisions to the course fee structure, affecting everyone involved, but this is the first time since 1993 that costs have increased. The details of our revised agreement were communicated to all Canadian instructors in June.


As a result of further decisions at the board level, all instructors are again required to renew provincial membership for 2001/2002 in order to continue teaching. All Canadian instructors whose names have not been submitted centrally to NENA's master membership list by November 1 will be suspended from teaching. It remains the responsibility of each provincial organization to promote membership within each province, and to submit all members' names by the November 1 deadline.

In September 2001, three positions on NENA's national trauma committee will be open for appointment. One of the three vacant positions will be the NTC chair. Positions are open to instructor trainers to come forward and offer to represent your fellow emergency nurses. A revised process for appointment was supported at the board's spring meeting. All eligible applications will be considered for appointment at the fall NENA board meeting in November.

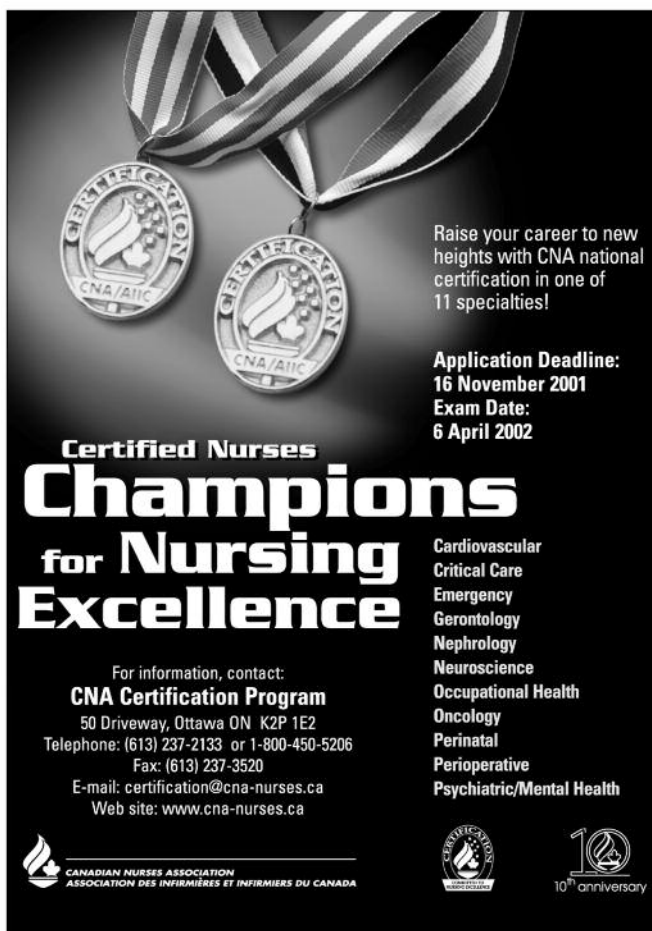
With close to 70 instructor candidates across Canada, we are expecting to see significant advancements in course availability. This growth reflects directly into improved access for Canadian nurses. The present volume of instructor candidates represents the largest number of candidates at any one time since these courses began in Canada. The growth is expected to be most significant in British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec. Instructor trainers across the country are committed to working towards verifying many candidates in the coming year. Members should be proud of their individual contribution to this process.

During the fall months, NENA will be represented on ENA's international faculty in Orlando. NENA's national trauma committee will also meet again in the fall and provide further recommendations for further process improvement to the NENA board in November.

On a more personal note, at the end of December 2001 I will be stepping down after three years as the chair of NENA's national trauma committee. During this period there have been many challenges and many rewards. The greatest challenge was developing and implementing a reliable process to communicate regularly with all Canadian instructors. This process is now solid and, by all accounts, effective. By far, my greatest personal reward has been the outcome collectively achieved during this time. Every TNCC/ENPC and CATN instructor in Canada is a current member of NENA. Letters of complaint are now virtually non-existent and the number of active instructors has continued to grow. We are now at a point where 2001 is heading to be Canada's highest course volume on record. None of this success could have possibly been achieved without the support and guidance of all the dedicated instructors in every province. So, as I move on to new challenges in 2002, I would like to extend a special thank you to each member of the national trauma committee who has dedicated hours and days of their own time since 1999 to bring us to where we are today.

Finally, to those of you who are now starting your days as a new emergency nurse, or as a new course instructor, my message is simple. Keep looking ahead, never backwards; keep your goals in sight, and before you reach them, make some new ones. 

John Trickett, RN, BScN,
(Retiring) Chair, National Trauma Committee




Raise your career to new heights with CNA national certification in one of 11 specialties!



Application Deadline:
16 November 2001
Exam Date:
6 April 2002

**Certified Nurses
Champions
for Nursing
Excellence**

For information, contact:
CNA Certification Program
50 Driveway, Ottawa ON K2P 1E2
Telephone: (613) 237-2133 or 1-800-450-5206
Fax: (613) 237-3520
E-mail: certification@cna-nurses.ca
Web site: www.cna-nurses.ca

Cardiovascular
Critical Care
Emergency
Gerontology
Nephrology
Neuroscience
Occupational Health
Oncology
Perinatal
Perioperative
Psychiatric/Mental Health

 CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES INFIRMIÈRES ET INFIRMIERS DU CANADA

The 2001 annual general meeting elections

The NENA board of directors met during the three days prior to the annual general meeting of May 11, 2001. During our meetings we were privy to the fact that the nominations chair had not received nominations for either position up for election, the positions being those of communications officer and president-elect.

The board of directors discussed at length a plan of action to take, should there not be a nomination from the floor at the AGM. It was decided after much discussion that the current executive would extend their terms of office by one year if there were no nominations from the floor. This would mean that at the AGM in 2002, the positions up for election would be the same as for the year 2001, those of communications officer and president-elect. In the year 2003 the positions up for election would be treasurer and secretary. It was decided unanimously at the board table that all four positions could not, nor should they be up for election at the same time as the business and continuity of NENA needed to be maintained.

On the morning of May 11, 2001, the day of the AGM, the nominations chair received a nomination form from one of the current board of directors for the position of president-elect.


At the AGM, the nomination process commenced. It was stated that there were no nominations for the position of communications officer. A call for nominations from the floor took place times three. No names came forward. It was announced to the membership that this being the case, the present communications officer would complete the spring/summer edition of **Outlook**. In the fall, at the next board of directors meeting it would be decided who on the board would oversee the fall/winter edition of **Outlook** until the next election took place in 2002.

For the position of president-elect, it was announced that one of the board of directors was a candidate for this position. The first of three calls from the floor was announced for the position of

president-elect, at which time members of the provincial group that this particular board of director represented stood to ask questions of this candidate regarding provincial accountability issues. They were stopped after a few questions so that the two remaining calls for nominations could be made from the floor, as per the by-laws.

After the two remaining calls from the floor, there was not another candidate for the position of president-elect. There was a motion from the floor to suspend the business of the meeting. At this time, open discussion took place between the respective provincial members and the candidate for president-elect.

A second motion was brought forward that the candidate nominated for the position of president-elect should not be acclaimed, but a vote should take place as to whether or not this individual should become president-elect for NENA.

A secret vote took place, which determined that the candidate would not be acclaimed to the position of president-elect. The plan that was previously decided upon at the board of directors meeting, should there not be a candidate for the position, was announced to those present. 

**Anne Cessford, RN, BA, BScN,
ENC(C), President, NENA**

I'm sorry in advance

Your bed's not made today
But I have a patient here
Whose chest pain won't go away

I'm sorry in advance
You're not happy with your meal
Dietary does try hard sir,
To give it some appeal

I'm sorry in advance
Your morning pills are late
I've a patient climbing out of bed
That I must try to sedate

I'm sorry in advance
Your mattress isn't soft
We do need some new beds ma'am
But these things do cost a lot.

I'm sorry in advance
I didn't get to comb your mother's hair
I've a patient with emphysema
She's scared, she can't get air

I'm sorry in advance
Your father's still in pain
I'm trying to reach his doctor
I'll have to try again

I'm sorry in advance
Your dressings aren't yet done
But a patient has just passed away,
I offered solace to his son,

I'm sorry in advance
I'm not cheery as a bird
I've worked 12 hours, my feet ache
I asked for help, but no one heard

I'm sorry in advance
I've only two hands and two feet
I'm trying to care for you, patient
Your needs, I want to meet


My 12 hours now are 16,
No replacement could be found
My aching feet they cry out
My head begins to pound

I'm sorry in advance
I cannot meet your gaze
My eyes are filled with tears
Your face is just a haze

If I could sit down for a minute
And maybe grab a bite
Phone my kids to say I love them
And I'll be late again tonight

I'm sorry in advance
I didn't do all that must be done
If I worked any faster
I'd soon begin to run

When I do get to hold your hand
Or wipe your furrowed brow
Please understand, dear patient
I care for you and how

I see your pain, I sense your fear
Your anger in a glance,
Our health care service is failing you
I'm sorry in advance. 

**By Linda Leeson, Licensed Practical
Nurse, Vernon Jubilee Hospital,
Vernon, BC
leesonlpn@hotmail.com**