

CANADIAN
NURSES
ASSOCIATION



ASSOCIATION DES
INFIRMIÈRES ET
INFIRMIERS DU CANADA

May 12, 2014

Dear colleagues,

To all, I extend my warmest greetings and wish you a meaningful and fulfilling National Nursing Week. This event provides an occasion to reflect on the amazing opportunities we have each day to make a difference for our patients, clients and residents, and the health-care system.

Part of National Nursing Week is the international celebration of Florence Nightingale's birthday. Among the symbols long associated with nursing is Florence and her lamp. The lamp is said to symbolize the reliability, courage and support that are key characteristics of nursing. Because of those characteristics (and more!) nursing is repeatedly identified as one of the most trusted professions in Canada. The word *trusted* means having integrity, strength and ability. As RNs, the knowledge, caring and advocacy we provide support each of those qualities, and by making these core principles visible in our daily practice, we demonstrate professionalism and integrity. I know there are times when doing so requires great strength and pushing aside our personal feelings and values to deliver respectful care. Yet it's our ability to be respectful and compassionate, all while performing our work competently, that solidifies the trust that is held in us.

Because lamps light the way, they are also beacons, and CNA has been a beacon for our profession in Canada for 106 years. As such, it has not simply guided and supported our development as a profession, uniting and mobilizing us, it has represented our collective vision, energy, strength and spirit to truly make nursing a leading force for change.

I hope you will extend celebrations of the nursing profession to June and join CNA at our [biennial convention](#) in Winnipeg, June 16-18.

With warm regards and yours in nursing,

Barb Mildon, RN, PhD, CHE, CCHN(C)
President