



2023 AGM – President Report Loreley Fehr, RN MN

This will be my last President's report and my first in-person meeting as President, as I step away after 7 years on the Board. As I reflect, I remember many things:

- The passion and leadership of nurses who recognized the need for an Association to represent the professional voice of nursing in Manitoba as the role of Colleges changed
- The many hours spent establishing policies and by-laws to govern the Association
- The nurses who took a lead in making ARNM one of the first associations in the country to represent all the nursing professions 3 years ago
- The leading roles that nurses contributed in caring for Manitobans through the worst pandemic in 100 years
- The dedicated Board members and staff who have moved ARNM forward over the last 7 years

I want to say thank you to our outgoing Board directors:

- Ashley Carruthers, RN(NP)
- Dr. Jane Karpa, RPN
- Michelle Queau, RN
- Monica Leahul, RN
- Louise Dowhan, Public Representative

The perspectives of these dedicated volunteers have helped shape the Association, and we would not have been able to accomplish what we have without them. This board's commitment speaks volumes about their passion for our profession and the importance of advancing nursing.

The professional voice of nurses in Manitoba

On that note, I want to follow the theme for National Nurses Week: Our Nurses. Our Future.

What a great time to look forward to the future! Nurses from across the world are joining us in Canada in July for the International Council of Nurses Congress whose theme is Nurses Together: A Force for Global Health. This focus reminds us of the need to look broadly at health, including the social determinants and the ecological issues.

Nurses know that they are key leaders in the health and social systems of our country and the world, and others are starting to acknowledge that truth.

ARNM has refined its land acknowledgement, and committed to work with others, such as the Indigenous Nurses Association and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to decolonize the health system. This includes encouraging Indigenous nurses to enter practice and supporting practicing nurses to recognize the harms of some of their learned behaviours.

ARNM has just completed its second strategic plan, putting us on a great footing for our future activities. Members identified that we need to be bold on their behalf as we shine a light on the realities of the health system, advocate nursing values and build optimal practice environments.

We put out a call for new Board members, and 7 nurses stepped forward to run for 3 positions. Thank you to all who came forward.

We are presenting 25 Awards of Excellence this year to nurses nominated by their peers for excellence in Clinical Practice, Leadership, Education, Research, Advocacy and leaving a Legacy.

The number of students entering nursing schools continues to increase and those students are passionate about the profession. They can help us remember why we became and stay nurses.

After a few years of change in the landscape of professional associations in nursing, new collaborations have started with Nurses and Nurse Practitioner Association of BC, Alberta Association of Nurses, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, WeRPN, the association for practical nurses in Ontario and the Canadian Nurses Association.

We look forward to the other provincial and territorial nursing associations joining us as they finalize their structures in response to changes in provincial College legislation. The Hey Nurse campaign for Nurses Week is one of the first joint initiatives.

I want to congratulate our incoming President, Ken Borce and President-Elect, Jacob Ahiaegbe. I know from working with them that I am leaving ARNM in good hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loreley Fehr". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Loreley Fehr, RN MN
President