

Caring: A Passion You Never Forget!



Photo Laurent Gibeault

Right from the start of my career, I chose to contribute to the development of our marvellous profession. I became involved wherever I worked, and sat on all kinds of committees, sometimes with extraordinary and other times with disappointing results. Despite the difficulties we encounter, I remain convinced that each of us can influence decisions and spark change at our own level by investing our own time and energy. That is how I began working in research and management, after advanced clinical training in geriatric care, in the hope of bringing about changes in the field of care for the elderly. Opportunities arose; as a research assistant, clinical assistant and Director of Nursing, I was able to push for progress in certain areas, for instance the funding of residential and long-term care centres, management information systems for nursing care, healthcare quality indicators, nursing programs related to health problems among the elderly, etc.

The past three years that I have spent as Secretary General have been most enriching. Taking part in the first plan to formulate strategic guidelines for the profession was definitely a privilege, but above all a tremendous responsibility toward the public and members. I am proud to have had the opportunity to play a

The theme of Nurses Week was perfectly appropriate, since after many years devoted to managing nursing care and, more recently, with the General Secretariat of the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec, I have decided, for personal and family reasons, to resign from my position in September. I will be embarking on a new path in working toward the goals I hold dear.

part in the OIIQ's efforts to advance our profession.

Once again, without the competence and professional dedication of the many nurses and other contributors involved, these plans would never have been carried out. There is the new *Nurses Act*, the revision of the *Code of Ethics*, the new professional exam and the adoption of many regulations, including the one concerning the externship program. In addition, the revision of the conditions governing access to the profession was undertaken with the goal of harmonizing them with the new DCS-Bac training program and the new *Nurses Act*. The future fruit of this work will lead to new and more modern regulations, better adapted to the new globalized context.

Consequently, I would like to take this opportunity to salute the professionalism and innovative spirit of the nurses whose proposals and achievements influence the day-to-day practice of our profession. These projects, highlighted through the 3M Clinical Innovation contest, have given me an opportunity to meet dedicated and enthusiastic nurses all over Quebec—agents of change who all communicate their passion for caring in their own ways.

A new step

Life's twists and turns have led me to choose a different path from the one I had foreseen. I am leaving my position as Secretary General and, consequently, the people who supported me so well in my functions. I thank each of them for their sage advice, their devotion and their convictions.

I also wish to express my appreciation to an extraordinary woman who deserves all my admiration for her professional leadership, her vision, her energy and her political acumen. The profession is fortunate to have a nurse as committed as Gyslaine Desrosiers as President.

I am leaving my position, but not my profession. I have received a great deal: it is high time I passed along to others the knowledge and experience I have acquired. I will be devoting my passion to teaching the art of caring, drawing inspiration from Rodin's words: "Art with life does not reproduce the past—it builds on it!" 📌

DIANE SAULNIER
SECRETARY GENERAL