

Message delivered at 50th Annual Convention
Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Thursday 12 June 1975
at 0930
by Helen K. Mussallem

Madam President, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues

How can I express the immense joy I feel as the conveyor, to this great gathering, of greetings from your national association the CNA -- with over 105,000 members.

You will agree that this is a large task to be accomplished in a few minutes. Even at a minute per member this would take about 1,700 hours or 70 days. But we don't have quite that much time. However, in essence, CNA is a federation of 10 provincial associations - a family of ten. That is a nice metric number to cope with. Although I am only one, I have a special responsibility and a personal privilege to represent the other members of our family who could not be here to celebrate with you this celebration.

The CNA family acknowledges your unique and vital leadership that demands national recognition.

Today, RNAO has reached its Golden Anniversary -- the diamonds are yet to come.

But many would argue that the diamonds have been won -- because 71 years ago, the forerunner of the RNAO the Graduate Nurses Association of Ontario was formed.

It was this Ontario association that spurred on the formation of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses in 1908. Through this Ontario achievement, Canadian nurses became members of the world wide Association, the International Council of Nurses. This link, forged in Ontario and completed in 1909 remains strong, and now links Canadian

nurses with more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a million nurses in 80 countries around the world. So many of the achievements of CNA have had their beginnings in Ontario. From the launching of the Canadian Nurse journal in 1905, and -- on and on -- to the most recent identifiable one, the development of a National Testing Service. Glance through the newest CNA brochure -- "CNA is" -- and you will acknowledge that many-- if not more -- of the programs for our English - speaking nurses had their genesis in this province. And now again, you are in the forefront in implementing that great resolution of yesterday -- of health maintenance in the community.

So, as it was in the past and is now, RNAO will provide the magic ingredient to vitalize and revitalize CNA -- to keep it forever young and progressive. For this -- and much more -- CNA salutes you on this memory making occasion.

So, we are programmed to go forward into an exciting future -- and we shall cope with what is called "abrupt collision with the future". And, if we are so programmed to go forward and if we are to avoid destruction -- we must do so with courage, with hope, with love, with faith and with devotion that I can liken only to total commitment.

So may I conclude these warm and sincere greetings from CNA with the words of CNA President of the first president of CNA Mary Agnes Snively, a distinguished nurse in Toronto.

"It is, therefore, your privilege, and, I may add, your duty, to be dedicated to the work their far advanced, and, into the future open a better way!"

Good health, good luck, and thank you