

## **NATIONAL NURSES WEEK: A MESSAGE to ALL ALUMNI MEMBERS**

As members of one of the oldest nursing schools in Canada and who celebrates 100 years of continuous Alumni meetings , it is time to give ourselves ‘a clap on the back’ . Not only for all the nursing care which was graciously and compassionately given but for also for the numerous contributions that the Alumni gave to the ‘community at large’ over all these years.

Remembering the VG pioneers of the past, who under difficult situations and struggles , developed our solid school of nursing foundation, the first nurses organization in Canada as a regulatory body in order for the designation of RN, and many other pioneering ventures in promoting health care not only in Nova Scotia but throughout Canada and also internationally.

The theme of National Nurses week: ‘A Voice to Lead: Nursing the World to Health’ , is so true of the past but in this extreme health crisis of today, the words have a greater impact on the public at large and all nurses within the ‘health team’ must feel so proud, as they should.

VGH nurses have answered ‘the call’ in previous health crisis from the smallpox epidemic in the 1800’s, the wars and now this covid 19 pandemic. ‘Hats off’ to those nurses working on the front lines who have demonstrated exceptional courage, commitment, compassion and leadership as they perform their ‘Duty of Care’.

Another group of nurses who should receive a ‘clap on the back’ are the retired nurses who also deserves recognition and thanks for all the many hours and sacrifices that they gave for the benefit of those under their care for which they were responsible for their return to health or the provision that they made for their peaceful and dignified passing.

Quote from Florence Nightingale, whose 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday is May 12: *“Nursing is a progressive art in which to stand still is to have gone back. Progress can never end but with a nurse’s life”*.

Toast yourselves every day this week and always, on behalf of the VGH Alumni Executive,  
Gloria Stephens.