



Celebrating National Nurses Week: May 11-17, 2020

I want to not only celebrate each of you during this important week but to also thank you, not only for this week but for all the weeks and days, both past and to come, that you work so hard to serve our residents.

As a profession, we know that we put the safety of our patients first, regardless of our position or setting we practice in. In these recent months during COVID-19, we are reminded of this even that much more. In addition, not only do you have the best interest of your patients in mind, but you have often had to put your own personal interests and lives on hold to be available to work in different ways to meet your patients' needs.

This year the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has selected the theme for Nursing Week, *Nurses: A Voice to Lead — Nursing the World to Health*. ICN chose this theme to showcase how nurses are central to addressing a wide range of health challenges. ICN further notes that the theme will help raise the profile of the profession and attract a new generation into the nursing family.

As Chief Nursing Officer, I stand with you and there has never been a time in my 30+ year nursing career where I have been prouder, not only as a nurse but as a nurse in this territory.

I recognize that this has been a very difficult time for you and I encourage you to please continue to take care of yourselves and one another.

I am thankful to have this opportunity to honor you, our nurses, and recognize the valuable role you have in our health and social services system.

Sincerely,

Jo-Anne Cecchetto
Chief Nursing Officer
Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories