

**Message from Dr. Carole Robinson, Canada**

**President of the International Family Nursing Association**

**September 2015**

What a wonderful gathering of the clan we had in Odense, Denmark! Our 12<sup>th</sup> International Family Nursing Conference offered the opportunity to re-connect, re-imagine, re-story, and renew ourselves as an international community of nurses committed to *“transforming health for families worldwide.”* Dr. Kit Chesla’s message of December 2014 was a superb reminder that volunteerism is the lifeblood of IFNA. Nowhere is this more evident than at our biennial conference. Heartfelt thanks for the many magical moments to our conference co-chairs Drs. Janet Deatrack and Kathleen Knafl, as well as Dr. Birte Ostergaard, who led the local organizing committee, and Debbie Zaparoni for her exemplary organization skills, and warm and welcoming presence. To echo Kit’s words: *“I am awestruck at the strength and generosity that resides within the ranks of family nurses.”*

As I take up the position of President of our organization, I ask myself *“What characterizes our clan?”* and *“Where are we headed?”* In other words, *“How do we grow our strengths to best accomplish our Vision and Mission?”*

Here are the words that come to my mind when I think about our strengths:

- Commitment to transforming family health
- Belief in the importance of what we do – a Vision & Mission that matters
- Passion for being together
- Diversity and an appreciation for difference
- A growing history and tradition
- Creativity
- Effective communication across boundaries of time and place
- Generosity of spirit, time and energy

What are the words that come to your mind as you reflect?

So, *“What next?”* The IFNA Board of Directors will be renewing our strategic plan and you will hear more about this over the upcoming months. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Board of Directors for all that you do to nurture the vitality of IFNA – keep up the superb work. The membership is the organization. If you are new to IFNA, please consider joining one of our standing committees and adding your voice to the conversation about *“Where next?”* One thing is for certain....every voice counts!