



**Carmel Montgomery, PhD, RN**

**Current Position:** Assistant professor and staff nurse

**Tell us why you are seeking a Board of Director position (max 100 words):**

I am seeking a Board of Director position to contribute to the CACCN across Canada. As a representative of Western Canada, I can bring member questions and suggestions to the decision-making table at CACCN. I can also contribute nationally by communicating back to Western Canadian members about the value of CACCN and the progress made on key initiatives over the term of my appointment. I recognize my experience in critical care nursing, as a bedside nurse, educator and researcher is excellent preparation for a Board role where I can help to provide important leadership to the organization and its membership.

**CACCN / Volunteer Involvement (max 250 words):**

Since joining CACCN in 2010, I have contributed to the Association in multiple ways. Nationally Conference: I have attended and presented at the Calgary, Halifax, Fredericton and Regina annual conference. Topics have included interventions for shock, palliative symptom management, ICU patient survivorship, caregiver support and ICU nursing orientation. Committees: In 2020 I contributed to the CACCN position statements on End-of-Life Care (2020) and Deceased Organ and Tissue Donation (2020). In 2021 I helped to develop questions and analyze responses to the national survey of member educational needs. We have developed online educational simulation for members as part of the Professional Development Committee. Journal: Since 2018 I have been an active member of the editorial board for the CJCCN, attending meetings and reviewing manuscripts. Awards: I am a frequent reviewer of CACCN award applications, annual research grant competition and individual achievement awards. Chapter Locally, I have co-lead the re-instatement of the Alberta CACCN chapter. During

the pandemic, our Alberta South and Greater Edmonton chapters became inactive. Since 2022 we have worked to combine the chapters and reach existing and new members across the province through online educational seminars and informal presentations about CACCN to nurses in individual ICUs. I have also worked with undergraduate and graduate students to develop their confidence to organize and host events, manage advertising and social media messaging. We have also worked to develop a job shadowing process where undergraduate students can job shadow in ICU, with the hope that more students will choose to work in ICU.

**Personal Statement (max 500 words):**

My interest in critical care nursing started during my undergraduate degree program. My final clinical placement was in the ICU at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon and that experience convinced me that I would have a long career in critical care nursing. I worked toward my Advanced Critical Care Nursing certificate at Mount Royal University while I worked in urban and rural acute care settings before being hired into a full time ICU position. My ICU experience includes diverse settings (e.g., rural Alberta, Australia, New Zealand, Edmonton) patient populations (e.g., adults and pediatrics, cardiovascular surgery, transplant and medical/surgical). In addition to my ACCN certificate, I completed a master of nursing degree focused on advanced nursing practice in ICU and cardiology. Subsequently, I completed a PhD program where my research focused on outcomes of patients with pre-admission frailty admitted to ICU. That research led to my current work on developing and evaluating follow-up care of patients who survive critical illness, in addition to research on assessing ICU nursing turnover. In my role at the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, I supervise graduate students who share my enthusiasm for improving care and outcomes for our patients. And I still work as a casual bedside nurse on weekends. Since becoming a CACCN member in 2010 I have been an attendee and presenter at the Canadian Critical Care Nurses Conference on multiple occasions, contributed to the CACCN position statements on End-of-Life Care (2020) and Deceased Organ and Tissue Donation (2020), developed questions and analyzed responses to the national survey of members' professional development needs (2021) and developed online educational simulation for members (2024). Since 2018 I have been an active member of the editorial board for the Canadian Journal of Critical Care Nursing. Locally, I have co-lead the re-instatement of the Alberta CACCN chapter. During the pandemic our Alberta South and Greater Edmonton chapters became inactive. Since 2022 we have worked to combine the chapters and reach existing and new members across the province through online educational seminars and informal presentations about CACCN to nurses in individual ICUs. Over the years CACCN has provided me with the opportunity to attend important educational events, network with extraordinary critical care colleagues, and apply for supportive educational bursaries and research grants. As a member of the CACCN Board of Directors I plan to advocate for the continuation of valuable member benefits and develop a sustainable plan for new initiatives that are meaningful to our members.