

## News from your President



**January 2014**

It's a new year, which means new opportunities and a fresh start. As professionals who provide services to clients, we often consider our contributions to society as "just part of the job." By doing this, we overlook what they really are: a valuable and important tool for a healthy, successful community. This year, it's time you toot your own horn! So often we don't recognize our own accomplishments—personally and professionally. By acknowledging our accomplishments, we remind not only ourselves, but our colleagues who are doing the same work, that our role is important. Appreciation breeds motivation, which breeds success! I'm hoping that 2014 is the year we take out our horns and let people know about our positive contributions to our societies across the country! Share your successes with us, email [info@vracanada.com](mailto:info@vracanada.com) or tell us online through social media.

Our relationship with CVRP remains strong and growing. We continue to engage with the college, fostering relationships and resolving outstanding concerns.

The year 2014 will be a big year for VRA Canada! Our new by-laws will come into effect at our AGM in June, and will help to better serve our membership and community as a whole. For example, according to the new by-laws, there are two classes of membership (voting and non-voting), however, when there are significant changes to by-laws or policies and structure of the association, all members have the right to vote. As a member of an association, regardless of your status, you have the right to shape the future of your association. Another major change we're expecting to see once the new by-laws take affect is that all members of the national board must be voted in by members of the association. This means a deeper interest—from each member—in how the association is managed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our many volunteers, including the Board of Directors, who painstakingly give of their time and expertise. Through their dedication, we are able to develop our Centre of Excellence, providing affordable and easily accessible training for members. I urge you to join a committee of VRA Canada volunteers to share your experience, impart awareness, and enjoy collegiality with your peers.

As always, I encourage members to interact and engage with each other online by joining in the many discussions taking place right now on our social media communities: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Lesley McIntyre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lesley McIntyre".