



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) supports the environmental responsibility principles of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, and Re-educate.**

Perioperative Registered Nurses should participate in and support waste management programs and waste reduction initiatives. We must be influential in setting standards and effecting change through environmental awareness within surgical suites, health care facilities, with medical suppliers, and on a professional level. In addition, ORNAC supports compliance with applicable federal, provincial, and municipal government regulations regarding environmental protection issues.

Approved: June 1993

Revised: May 2003

For further resource information:

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). *Guidelines for the Management of Biomedical Waste in Canada*. 1992 www.ccme.ca

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard, CAN/CSA-Z317.10-01, titled *Handling of Waste Materials in Health Care Facilities & Veterinary Health Care Facilities*. www.csa.ca

The Joint Canadian Nurses Association (CNA)/Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Position Statement – *Environmentally Responsible Activity in the Health Sector*. June 2000 www.can.aiic.ca