Hello, my name is Judith Shamian and I am proud to be president of the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

I was born in Hungary and immigrated to Canada. My nursing career began as a bedside nurse. I went on to become the chief nurse of Canada, president of the Canadian Nurses Association (2010-2012) and president emeritus of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) (2004-2012), Canada’s leading non-profit supplier of home-based nursing services.

Why I ran for president of ICN

I want to bring together nursing voices from across the globe. Together, we can show the world that nurses can lead real change that improves health care and makes people and economies healthier.

I want to work with nursing associations, regulatory bodies, unions, governments, and global organizations. We must uphold the fundamental right to health and well-being for populations around the world.

The global recession is forcing governments to get the most from their budgets. It’s an excellent time for nurses to show how their knowledge and clinical expertise can create cost-effective solutions to today’s health-care challenges.

I want ICN to work with other organizations to improve nurse’s well-being and remove barriers to practice. Nurses need the support of strong leadership, policy, education and research to continue offering the best professional care.

My vision for ICN

As president of ICN, I will maximize our organization’s ability to empower nurses and nursing organizations to influence nursing and health agendas globally. To achieve this, I have a three-point plan:

• **Focus on health-care solutions.** Optimizing the use of evidence and expertise is essential to convince governments and others to improve health-care policy.

• **Ensure nursing speaks with one voice on key issues.** When professional associations, unions and regulatory bodies present clear messages, they cannot be ignored.

• **Listen and work with nursing organizations and nurses around the world.** ICN’s greatest resources are individual nurses and nursing organizations. Together, we can make ICN and its member organizations the best they can be.
What I bring to ICN

I have extensive experience in guiding organizations through times of change. I will help ICN address the challenges ahead and increase the ability of national nursing organizations to influence health policy. My experience includes:

• **Transforming VON (2004-2012).** I was the president and CEO of this 115-year-old, non-profit home and community care organization. I guided VON to ensure it continues to be Canada’s largest charitable care provider.

• **Leading CNA (2010-2012) at a critical time in Canadian health care.** I have worked hard to ensure that Canada’s political leaders have heard and acted on nurses’ solutions to the country’s most challenging health issues.

• **Being Canada’s chief nurse (1999-2004).** As executive director of the Office of Nursing Policy, I helped lead a study that resulted in policy solutions to improve nurses’ work environments.

• **Acting as a sustained champion of nurses as leaders.** Throughout my career as a nurse executive, nurse researcher and educator, I have always advocated for nursing solutions to the biggest health-care challenges.

• **Longstanding involvement in numerous international initiatives.** My international collaboration began in Botswana, working with professor Serara Kupe, and grew to include many initiatives in support of the nursing profession and national nursing associations. For example:
  
  o Collaborated with Polish nurses to help establish their national nursing association
  
  o Helped develop chief nursing officer leadership skills in collaboration with WHO and Emory University’s Carter Center
  
  o Participated on WHO’s Global Advisory Committee on Nursing and Midwifery

I invite all those who want to share their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities ahead to contact me at judith@judithshamian.com. You can also learn more in the Members Area of ICN’s website or get updates on CNA’s website.

The presidential election took place in May 2013 at ICN’s quadrennial conference in Melbourne. The term of my presidency is 2013-2017.