The Academy of Canadian Executive Nurses and Longwoods Publishing are pleased that Dorothy (“call me Dot”) Pringle has agreed to become Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership. She succeeds Dorothy Wylie who has retired to a life of Riley after a most distinguished second career as editor of this journal.

Dorothy Pringle, RN, BScN, MS, PhD is a Professor of Nursing and has been at the University of Toronto since 1988, serving as Dean of Nursing from 1988-1999. Her clinical and research interests are in the care of disabled and impaired older people in the community and in the assistance required by family caregivers. She has published more than 20 articles and book chapters, and presented at more than 100 scientific conferences. She has delivered many keynote addresses on topics related to the healthcare system and nursing’s role, health services for the elderly and their family members, and nursing education and research. Of note is Dr. Pringle’s current role as director of a major study to establish a better understanding of nursing’s contribution to patient care. No doubt we’ll hear a lot more about this important work as it evolves.

Dr. Pringle is uniquely qualified to edit this journal. Consider this: in the spring of 2000, she gave a rousing speech on “nursing leadership in an era of healthcare reform.” This was her way of accepting the Jeanne Mance award from the Canadian Nurses Association. The award recognized her outstanding leadership in the nursing profession – she treasures this honour above all others.

An Ordinary Day
By Dorothy Pringle

The following paragraph is an excerpt from a paper written by our Editor-in-Chief. It speaks so well of this extraordinary person.

For some years now, I have been trying to take this concept of ordinary and to operationalize it in terms of the “ordinary day.” I believe that everyone’s “ordinary” is unique but satisfying to that individual. In fact, I have come to believe that life satisfaction/quality of life lies in the ordinary, not in the exceptional. We have to be deriving pleasure from our everyday encounters, the people in our lives and the activities that we do routinely to have any level of contentedness with our lives. A good day is an ordinary day that allows us to be as autonomous as we wish and includes activities and ways of being that are meaningful to us even if they would not suit other people. The exceptional experiences such as vacations in Europe, the trip to Disney World, a great dinner out, a wonderful concert, provide the peaks in our lives but we can’t live on peaks if the rest of our lives are deep valleys. The prairies, the rolling countryside or perhaps the foothills with an occasional mountain peak produce a very nice landscape for life.

Photos: Anton Hart
There’s more. Following honorary doctorates from universities in Lethbridge and Laval, Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario also distinguished her with an Honorary Doctor of Science – one of five great Canadians awarded an honorary doc-

torate that day including 12-time Gemini Award winner Rick Mercer; a good match of wits as they enjoyed the day. As a former Director of Laurentian University’s School of Nursing (1975-1979), she was recognized for presiding over the School’s rejuvenation and inspiring the development of a bilingual program featuring a strong and innovative problem-based approach to learning. The university further acknowledged that: “. . . her cutting-edge curriculum drove the LU Nursing program for over 20 years. A mentor to many students who have since attained great success as leaders in nursing education, research, administration and practice, Dr. Pringle had an illustrious career as a nurse researcher and academic administrator locally, provincially and nationally. As Dean of Nursing at the University of Toronto, she was instrumental in launching the first doctoral program in Nursing in Ontario and the second in Canada. Dr. Pringle also initiated an innovative program in nursing education, a clinically based masters program at the University of Toronto, and was a driving force behind the development of the Nurse Practitioner Program in Ontario.”

We are delighted to be working with her. Our managing editor, Dianne Foster Kent, and members of the Academy have already established a strong working relationship with her. The healthcare community will be well served by these special individuals.

– Anton Hart
Publisher

Dorothy Pringle was born in Hamilton, Ontario and completed her BScN at McMaster University, her MS degree in psychiatric/ mental health nursing at the University of Colorado and her PhD in nursing from the University of Illinois. She has been a staff nurse and aftercare supervisor in psychiatric settings, the mental health nursing coordinator at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary and research director for the national office of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Her academic career has included faculty positions at McMaster, Laurentian and Toronto where she was dean from 1988-1999. She has taught psychiatric nursing, nursing administration, and care of individuals in long-term-care settings in undergraduate programs and courses on nursing in long-term care and designing long-term care settings in graduate programs. Her honours include an outstanding teacher award from the Ontario Association of University Teachers.

She has served on and chaired many research peer-review committees including the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Medical Research Council of Canada, the National Health Research and Development Program, the Alzheimer Society Research program, and the Canadian Nurses Foundation.

Dr. Pringle also serves on the Board of Directors of the Workers Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario and has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Toronto Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. She is Senior Fellow at the University of Toronto’s Massey College and currently a board member at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. She was also a member of the Alzheimer Society of Canada Research Advisory Committee and a member of The Gerontological Advisory Council, Veteran Affairs Canada.