

The Importance of the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) for Nurses

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ONA is a multifaceted organization with a primary focus on wages, benefits, health, and safety. When one examines their many contributions in the life of a nurse, it is evident that ONA goes above and beyond. As a progressive union, ONA has numerous platforms for communicating, advocating, and motivating their members. Accordingly, they encourage dialogue regarding issues that matter to nurses and influence change to promote high-quality work environments that foster exceptional patient care.

ONA places their membership first while representing nurses in the workplace and at the government level, which results in optimal employment opportunities and working conditions. More specifically, ONA recognizes that job security and nursing staff ratios play a significant role in job satisfaction and performance.

Equally important, ONA provides a voice for front-line nurses to advocate for fairness and respect. It is obvious that much time, energy and persistence is spent behind the scenes to achieve new gains and/or in some cases hold ground for its membership. As evidence, ONA spoke up and began to strive towards maintaining pay equity for nurses based on their employment contributions when the government initiated the wage-suppression legislation, Bill 124.

Moreover, ONA listens and responds to their members' needs with agility. In healthcare, new and unknown threats, such as COVID-19, surface without notice. Fortunately for Ontario nurses, ONA's actions continue to be clear and consistent; they will advocate tirelessly in an effort to maintain and/or improve nurse's health and safety in the workplace.

In summary, ONA's contributions have assisted in shaping the remarkable nursing profession we have today. To know ONA, is to value ONA. For my mother, aunt, and cousins, ONA is a union that they can rely on for assistance, guidance, and security. I propose that ONA will be the same for me, if not more.