

The Importance of the Ontario Nurses' Association for nurses:

The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) is the professional body that represents 68,000 healthcare professionals and 18,000 nursing student affiliate members.

In addition to having representatives on site to help nurses with any issues or concerns they are facing, ONA has many programs and campaigns supporting nurses, such as the workplace violence prevention program that wants to ensure nurses work in safer environments. ONA also arranges meetings with government policy-makers and legislators to ensure that the voice of nurses is heard. Thanks to its presence in different media platforms, ONA sheds light about the challenges nurses face every day while trying their best to care for their patients. ONA keeps working on raising awareness with the public about challenges like nurse-to-patient ratios, staffing issues and lack of funding. This helps the community understand issues like overcrowding and long wait times. ONA supports its members and help them feel safer by staying on top of current issues facing nurses. In fact, during the COVID-19 pandemic, ONA members have been receiving regular updates about how the union is working alongside the government and healthcare facilities to ensure proper access to PPE. ONA also cares about the public and reaches out to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) to talk about concerns affecting the community. ONA currently has an ongoing campaign to protect patients, residents and clients by asking the government for proper protective equipment to limit the spread of COVID-19. ONA is also working on rescinding cuts to public health to prevent and improve the overall health of the community by decreasing the need for hospitalization.

As I graduate nursing school and become a part of the healthcare forces in Ontario, I know I will be sleeping better at night having ONA by my side.