

The Importance of the Ontario Nurses Association for nurses

For years nurses protested to be unionized, fighting due to poor working conditions and inadequate wages. A union would allow them to organize as a group to negotiate the terms in which they worked. Eventually, once nurses were able to unionize and ONA was formed, nursing changed for the better. The Ontario Nurses Association has played a fundamental role in protecting nurses' jobs, fighting for adequate wages and benefits and ensuring they are treated as professionals. ONA provides nurses with a voice to express their concerns to both the government and the employer. When issues arise within the workplace, ONA's grievance committee is called to action. This union committee will address nurses' concerns to the employer to ensure that the collective agreement (which ONA has worked hard for during negotiations) is being followed. Another way in which ONA has helped nurses is the fight for pay equity! My grandmother (a retired nurse) talks about how ONA fought hard to get equal pay to their male counterparts -firefighters and police officers. Recently, ONA has helped fight for adequate personal protective equipment for nurses working on the frontline - ensuring their safety. Overall, ONA is important in ensuring that nurses across Ontario receive the compensation they deserve and ensuring that they are safe and respected within the workplace. With the creation of ONA, the way in which nurses are treated within the workplace has drastically changed for the better. I am excited to be both a third-generation nurse, and a member of this strong union.

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