

The Importance of ONA to Nurses: A Union that Cares So Nurses Can Care

Jakob Scott

Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) is a union with a rich history. For almost 50 years ONA has advocating for nurses and their rights across Ontario. Advocating for nurses is an important job that directly affects the health, safety, and ability of nurses. By fighting for adequate staffing ratios, appropriate working conditions, allotment of proper personal protective equipment (PPE), scheduling according to contract, the provision of legal counsel and defence against malpractice, ONA is caring for nurses so nurses can care for you.

As the world has changed considerably with the emergence of COVID-19, and the front-line role of nurses being brought to public attention, ONA has continued to do what it does best in this time of crisis: protecting nurses. Some particularly relevant examples which were previously listed are the allotment of personal protective equipment and scheduling according to contract. With the reserves of adequate PPE dwindling, as well as increased demands for staff, ONA is working alongside nurses to safeguard their rights and supply the provisions nurses need to effectively care for patients during this pandemic.

As a second-generation nurse I vividly remember my Mom receiving her issues of the ONA magazine. I also recall my Mother telling me about the Ontario Nurses Association, their role, and how they protected nurses like her. My Mother was always proud to be a member of ONA, just as I am excited to one day be a member of ONA. Being part of an organization that has your back and allows you to go to work every day and do your job without fear of unjust treatment is not a luxury afforded by all professions, but certainly one Ontario nurses have thanks to the Ontario Nurses Association.