

The Importance of the Ontario Nurses' Association

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My father is a registered nurse and a member of the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA). I am now entering my 2nd year of nursing and I asked my father what ONA meant to him. He responded by saying that registered nurses were fortunate in having ONA as their professional union to advocate for optimal work conditions.

ONA is the voice of its 68,000 registered nurses and health care professionals in a variety of work settings across Ontario. ONA is committed in leadership through the provision of advocacy, professional development and career support services for its members. However, ONA's main objective is in providing its members support for excellence in practice, enabling them in providing high quality patient care.

In recent years, registered nurses and other health care professionals have had struggles with many issues that have negatively impacted their ability to provide quality patient care. From staff cuts and increased patient to staff ratio to skill mix issues and surge capacity, ONA members face workplace challenges each and every day.

Because of these workplace challenges, ONA brings expertise in assisting its members in resolving practice concerns through political action, public awareness and collective agreements. Many knowledgeable experts in the areas of professional practice, patient safety, health and safety, infection control, labour relations and human rights are also readily available in advocating and supporting its ONA members.

Additionally, ONA provides online tools and resources and access to education programs to further help protect its members rights and optimal work conditions.

In summary, ONA is a trusted source of support that listens to its members and takes action in making things better for everyone involved. As a student nurse, I look forward in joining ONA and feel confident in knowing that ONA will support me in my future career.