

## The Importance of Ontario Nurses Association for Nurses

My name is Chitresh Puchakadan. I am a First-year Practical Nursing student. As a first-year nursing student, I was delighted to start my nursing education at Humber College. I was inspired by the work of nurses during the Pandemic. My wife is a Registered nurse and is a member of the Ontario Nurses Association for Nurses. I hear a lot of ONA's achievements from her on daily basis. ONA is a strong union representing 68000 nurses, other health care professionals, and 18000 nursing student affiliates. ONA stands for their members at all times.

I heard a lot about ONA who advocates for their members for their rights, better working conditions, adequate wages, workload issues, fighting for getting rid of BILL 124, insufficient PPE issues, hazard pay etc. They are strong voices for nurses and I have not seen another union that has worked tirelessly like this. ONA showed their immense contribution during the SARS outbreak which cannot be forgotten. They always showed their commitment for better public safety. On the other hand, they equally respected and always stood for their members.

The scholarship that ONA provides is a great help to continue my education and I believe it will help me to fulfill my goal of becoming a nurse in Ontario. I look forward to joining ONA in the future because I am fully confident that my voice will be always heard and respected.