

The Importance of the Ontario Nurses' Association for Nurses

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Nursing as a profession has evolved in the past two years as nurses and other healthcare workers faced a brutal and unforgiving global pandemic. They were on the front lines against the imminent threat of the virus and treated patients of all ages, backgrounds, and identities. Personally, I watched my mother as she tirelessly persevered through each day working as a nurse to treat the injured and infected, all the while sacrificing her personal desires for the greater good. To be a nurse means: to devote oneself to caring for others, to embrace diversity and equity, and to advocate for health and wellness in local and global communities. The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) fosters such values, allowing Ontario nurses to have a sense of unity, integrity, and diversity.

Since 1973, the ONA has committed to advocating for safer and fairer treatment of nurses in Ontario. They provide nurses with the opportunity to continue caring for the community while ensuring that the voices of all 68000+ members, both nurses and healthcare workers, are heard. Their efforts in promoting equity, quality patient care, fairer wages for nurses, and education among many others are an essential part of the support network for nurses that allow them to safely continue their work that is so essential to communities worldwide as proven through their efforts during the pandemic. The ONA has also made efforts to support new and current nursing students in their academic and professional careers. The association is actively involved with nursing students to improve clinical placements, the quality of nursing education, and providing financial aid to new nursing students. I believe the efforts made by the ONA will greatly benefit my career as a nursing student and also as a future nurse in Ontario.

Thanks to the ONA, I feel confident taking my first steps toward my nursing career beginning with my education at Toronto Metropolitan University. I am eager to be part of a union that strives for unity, equity, and inclusion in the nursing community and I hope that I can implement and carry on the vision of the ONA in my career as a future nurse in Ontario.