

# ONA WINS



SUMMARY OF ANOTHER SUCCESS AS YOUR UNION STRIVES TO IMPROVE YOUR WORKING CONDITIONS

## Big win for NPs! “Restrictions” label to be removed

Getting loud gets results!

Thanks to ONA’s advocacy, nurse practitioners (NPs) in Ontario who choose not to prescribe controlled substances will no longer be labelled as having “restrictions” on their license by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO).

The regulations under the Nursing Act changed last the spring, allowing NPs with CNO-approved training to prescribe controlled substances. ONA supported this change because it will improve access to health care for thousands of patients. However, we did not support the CNO’s decision to label all NPs who chose not to receive the required education and expand their practice as being “entitled to practice with restrictions.”

An NP can choose not to engage in prescribing controlled substances for any number of reasons and should be able to make that decision without attracting such a negative label. ONA repeatedly raised this issue with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the CNO, and countless ONA members sent letters and emails and posted comments on social media.

The Ministry has now confirmed the CNO has been informed that labelling NPs with “restrictions” is not acceptable, and they must find another way to convey this information.

“This is a huge victory for NPs in Ontario! It clears the way for commending the positive step NPs have taken in expanding their practice, while not stigmatizing those who choose not to do so,” said ONA President Linda Haslam-Stroud. “It is also encouraging for RNs, as this negative labelling of ‘restrictions’ will not be part of the RN prescribing when this piece rolls out in the new year.”

(*Front Lines*, November/December 2017 edition)

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