



Board Highlights

Making Important Decisions for You!

A summary of discussions and decisions from the ONA Board of Directors meeting | April 16-19, 2018

WITH A PROVINCIAL ELECTION LOOMING AND MEMBERS' WORKLOAD concerns escalating, the Board of Directors gathered in Toronto to discuss strategies for continuing to support our members in their professional and union lives.

CURRENT PRIORITIES

The key priorities discussed at this Board meeting were:

- ▶ **Joint Sector Meeting (JSM):** Coming off a hugely successful JSM, held on March 27-28 in Toronto, the Board reviewed participant feedback to determine what worked well and what could be improved. Through full-group plenaries, concurrent education sessions and breakouts, the meeting brought together Local leaders, Bargaining Unit Presidents, site reps, grassroots members and staff to discuss issues of joint concern as well as those specific to their sectors. The Board issued recommendations based on this feedback for staff to put into action.
- ▶ **Nursing Week:** One of the Board's most favourite times of year – Nursing Week – is here and we hope you have some exciting things planned! Board members provided a list of special events in their regions and are looking forward to attending many. Please send your Nursing Week photos and stories to cgrintake@ona.org so we can see how you celebrated! You might even see your photos on our website (www.ona.org/nw18), our social media pages, or in the next issue of *Front Lines*. Happy Nursing Week!

KEY MOTIONS

- ▶ To bring our language up to date, the term *Aboriginal* will be replaced with *Indigenous* in all ONA documents and communications, including our website,

Front Lines and on social media, as *Indigenous* is more current and inclusive.

- ▶ The pronouns *he/she* will be changed to *they* or the gender check-box will be removed from all ONA documents.
- ▶ A continuing grant from ONA to the Stephen Lewis Foundation of \$70,000 in June 2018 and \$70,000 in June 2019 will assist families and communities in sub-Saharan Africa infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

REGIONAL REPORTS

- ▶ **Region 1:** ONA launched an email campaign on behalf of the 54 public health nurses and nurse practitioners at Algoma Public Health, who had been without a contract since April 2017. The email to the Algoma Board of Health, local councillors and MPP Ross Romano stated these professionals deserved a collective agreement that is respectful of their skill, knowledge and dedication to their patients and communities. The group settled during mediation.
- ▶ **Region 2:** Joined by colleagues from fellow unions, ONA members recently made their voices heard as they chanted, "Cuts don't heal" and waved flags and signs in front of Arnprior Regional Health. The group is concerned about low staffing and patient care levels at

Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital and Grove Nursing Home, with Bargaining Unit President Blaine Davidson telling the media that nurses have seen major shortages and glaring holes in the schedule since the hospital eliminated three full-time RN positions.

- ▶ **Region 3:** With the disturbing news that Women's College Hospital in Toronto is cutting four RNs from its Family Practice Health Centre – half the RN staff – we are asking you and your members to take two minutes and send an email to the hospital's Board of Directors, urging them to rescind these layoffs. See www.ona.org/wch.
- ▶ **Region 4:** It came down to the wire, but the five full-time and two casual RNs at the Central West Specialized Developmental Services in Oakville reached a settlement with their employer during conciliation. These members had been without a contract since March 31, 2017 and were preparing for job action.
- ▶ **Region 5:** Local 8 members in Windsor-Essex have launched a new public awareness campaign to highlight the risk of workplace violence in health care. Comprised of four powerful commercials, the campaign is aimed at helping the public understand the very real risk to RNs and health-care professionals and the urgent need for the violence to stop. At last count, the first ad had been viewed almost 12,500 times on YouTube. See https://youtu.be/GjM5_BiFWP8.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? The full minutes from the April Board of Directors meeting will be available on the Executive Members' section of our website (www.ona.org) following approval at the next Board meeting.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

- ▶ **Communications:** The next phase of ONA's *Nurses know* campaign to bring attention to the continuing erosion of RN positions and the importance of their work, will soon launch with a catchy new tag-line. Stay tuned for transit shelter, print and radio ads, along with a strong social media presence. Check out nursesknow.ona.org for more in the days to come.
- ▶ **Government Relations:** With the RN share of nursing employment falling from 76.4 per cent in 2003 to 69.8 per cent in 2017 and Ontario failing to meet the international best practice ratio of 1:4 RNs for patients in hospitals, ONA President Vicki McKenna met with the new Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Dr. Helena Jaczek and Premier Kathleen Wynne to ask the government's support for three ONA goals: ensuring the right care provided by the right care provider, protecting the safety of health-care workers, and supporting marginalized and disadvantaged women.
- ▶ **Student Liaison:** The Board welcomed new Canadian Nursing Students' Association Ontario Regional Director Daniela Monachino, a second-year student at the University of Toronto, to our Joint Sector Meeting. ONA will be working closely with Monachino on nursing student concerns, including issues surrounding clinical placements.
- ▶ **Political Action:** A plan was approved for political action work leading up to the provincial election. While ONA remains non-partisan and is bound by changes to the *Election Finances Act*, we will provide information to our members, including a primer on party platforms,

so you can make the most informed decision on who will support health care the best. Please review this information and vote on June 7!

- ▶ **Professional Practice:** ONA welcomes news that nurse practitioners (NPs) trained in palliative care are being given the authority to independently prescribe high-strength, long-acting opioids, which they could previously do only by consulting with a physician registered under the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Palliative Care Facilitated Access (PCFA) program. NPs have also gained the authority to apply and order ultrasounds without restrictions. The government is working on the necessary changes to the *Health Insurance Act and Independent Health Facilities Act* to ensure that all ultrasounds NPs order, and the interpretation of those ultrasounds, are insured.
- ▶ **Human Rights and Equity:** Our organizing committee for Pride 2018 is up and running, planning a strong ONA presence at the largest parade in the province, which takes place in Toronto on Sunday, June 24. We encourage all members in the vicinity to join our contingent. Pride events are happening throughout the summer in communities across Ontario, including Thunder (Bay) Pride (June 7-16), Pride London Festival (July 19-29), Windsor-Essex Pride Fest (August 8-12), and Ottawa Capital Pride (August 20-26), so please participate in one near you! See www.ona.org/pride18.

**The Next Board of Directors meeting
will be held on June 18-21 at the
ONA Provincial Office.**

- ▶ **Labour Relations:** ONA continues to await Arbitrator William Kaplan's decision on a renewed contract for our 61,000 hospital members. After the award comes down, which could be at any time, we will call a Hospital Sector Meeting to relay the information to our hospital leaders. Updates will be posted at www.ona.org/bargaining.
- ▶ **Health and Safety:** ONA's regional Health and Safety Caucuses are underway! Under the theme, *Violence...Are you at Risk? Who, How and When to Assess Risk*, each Caucus discusses workplace violence and the value of comprehensive and accurate expert risk assessments. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. A webinar option, which is open to all, also takes place on May 25. See more at www.ona.org/news-posts/2018-health-safety-caucus.
- ▶ **Local Finance:** On the heels of a series of successful Treasurer webinars, ONA is currently determining content and timing for the next sessions.
- ▶ **Member Education:** The deadline for applications for our popular Leadership Summit and Activist Camp, to be held from September 17 to 21 at Grand Bend's Oakwood Resort, is **May 17**. Spaces are limited to 25 spots for each of three concurrent education streams: Advanced, Novice and Activist. See www.ona.org/leadership for additional information and application forms.

**If you have any questions about
this Board meeting, please contact
ONA President Vicki McKenna, First
Vice-President Cathryn Hoy or your
regional Vice-President (contact
information below).**

Board members for 2018: Vicki McKenna, President, Communications and Government Relations/Student Liaison (#2314); Cathryn Hoy, First Vice-President, Political Action and Professional Issues (#7755); Pam Mancuso, Region 1, Human Rights and Equity (#7703); Bernadette Robinson, Region 2, Education (#7756); Andy Summers, Region 3, Labour Relations (#7754); Laurie Brown, Region 4, Occupational Health and Safety (#7753); Karen Bertrand, Region 5, Local Finance (#7702). **To contact a Board member during regular business hours**, call (416) 964-8833 (Toronto) or toll-free 1-800-387-5580, hit "0" and ask the receptionist to put you through to the appropriate voicemail box (in brackets). **To leave a message for a Board member after hours**, call (416) 964-8833 (Toronto) or toll-free 1-800-387-5580 (if using the toll-free number, hit "0" immediately after dialing the number to be connected to the Toronto office), then dial her or his voicemail box. The Board also has an intake box for emergencies, monitored twice daily. To reach it, call the above numbers and dial voicemail box #7775.