



# Board Highlights

## Making Important Decisions for You!

A summary of discussions and decisions from the ONA Board of Directors meeting | June 18-21, 2018

**ON THE HEELS OF A PROVINCIAL ELECTION**, which will see ONA working with a new government for the first time in 15 years, and a very successful June Provincial Coordinators Meeting (PCM), hosted by Region 2 in Ottawa, where our members not only received updates on the important work of the union, but participated in community engagement events, the ONA Board of Directors gathered in our provincial office to discuss the hot-topic issues facing our union as we head into summer.

### CURRENT PRIORITIES

The key priorities discussed at this Board meeting were:

▶ **June PCM Debrief:** The Board reviewed the evaluations from the June PCM, including what worked well for our members in attendance and what could be improved for next time. The PCM Design Team has already turned its attention to the November PCM, which will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, and suggestions were discussed at the Board meeting for topics for the education session. Stay tuned for more information in the fall. To view the June PCM *Precis* video, log onto [www.youtube.com/OntarioNurses](http://www.youtube.com/OntarioNurses). Highlights from the meeting are also available at [www.ona.org](http://www.ona.org).

▶ **Provincial Election Summary:** With Doug Ford's Conservatives winning a majority government, the Board discussed actions for moving forward, commencing with sending letters of congratulations to all MPPs. While ONA will set up meetings with government officials to build relationships at the cabinet level, we are also asking our members to meet with their MPPs to help spread our key messages. A detailed plan and toolkits will be mapped out over the summer so this work can begin in the fall with the resumption of the legislature.

### KEY MOTIONS

- ▶ As ONA has reimbursed Locals \$60 per month for Local Coordinators' high-speed internet, critical for carrying out the business of the union, for the past nine years, the Board approved an increase of up to \$100 per month, which better reflects current prices.
- ▶ Amendments were approved to Policy 26.15, *Strike/Lock-out Benefits*, regarding the health and welfare benefits ONA provides to entitled members during a strike period. Along with this, ONA's *Job Action Manual* was updated and approved. The revised policy and guide will be posted on the executive site of [www.ona.org](http://www.ona.org) in the near future.

### REGIONAL REPORTS

▶ **Region 1:** ONA President Vicki McKenna was only too pleased to provide a Happy Health-Care Professionals Day letter to our members at Sudbury Health Sciences North, a clever initiative of the Bargaining Unit leaders to recognize the first-year anniversary of our significant David and Goliath *Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act* win over OPSEU.

▶ **Region 2:** While members throughout the province recently celebrated Nursing Week with lunches and other special events, many attended by the ONA Board of Directors, Local 42 Coordinator Patricia O'Shaughnessy went one step further. She was successful in getting the Mayor of Cornwall to read a Nursing Week proclamation, which O'Shaughnessy attended along with Cornwall Community Hospital's Vice-President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer. Remember, it's not too early to start planning for next year's Nursing Week!

▶ **Region 3:** With the deadline looming for Women's College Hospital (WCH) to cut four full-time primary care RNs from its Family Practice Health Centre – half the RN staff – ONA kept up the pressure by holding another info picket outside the clinic, attended by the entire Board, and a leafletting event outside WCH's annual general meeting. There is still time to get these harmful cuts reversed! Learn more at [www.ona.org/wch](http://www.ona.org/wch).

▶ **Region 4:** Members from the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit marched to the local council chamber and addressed councillors with a megaphone from the street to remind them that 33 public health nurses have been working without a contract since December 31, 2017. These dedicated members were forced to strike for 12 long days in 2012.

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

► **Region 5:** Local 100 members produced a very creative video, comparing hospital wait times to those of other emergencies, noting you wouldn't wait several hours for a response if you called 911 to report an intruder in your home or if your house was on fire. View the video at <http://onalocal100.on.ca>.

## PORTFOLIO REPORTS

► **Communications:** We are beefing up our communications efforts surrounding the ONA app to ensure all members understand its ease of use and tremendous benefits. The app allows access to collective agreements, the latest ONA news and events, and membership cards – to name a few. To download, go to the Apple Store or Google Play and search for “Ontario Nurses’ Association.” Please reiterate to your members that the ONA app is where it’s at!

► **Government Relations:** In the lead-up to the provincial election, ONA President Vicki McKenna met with (then) Premier Kathleen Wynne and (then) Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Dr. Helena Jaczek, along with NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and (then) PC Health Critic Jeff Yurek, to ensure, among other key issues, that all parties understood the importance of hiring 10,000 RNs in the next four years to fill hospital vacancies. ONA welcomed news that the PC’s public-sector hiring freeze does not include nurses.

► **Student Liaison:** Canadian Nursing Students’ Association (CNSA) Ontario Regional Director Daniela Monachino and York University CNSA delegate Caitlyn Leung joined ONA President Vicki McKenna in a meeting with Provincial Chief Nursing Officer Dr. Michelle Acorn to discuss nursing students’ concerns,

most notably issues surrounding clinical placements.

► **Political Action:** Leaders from all five regions – Kristy Johnston (Region 1), Jenny Briscoe (Region 2), Catherine Tran (Region 3), Dawn Gordon (Region 4) and Marg Van Puymbroeck (Region 5) – took a lead in ONA’s provincial election work, particularly managing phone banks in our offices throughout the province to encourage members to vote for health care. At the June PCM, the leaders spoke about how their initial nervousness turned to empowerment.

► **Professional Practice:** RNs at Runnymede Healthcare Centre secured a significant professional practice complaint settlement to address their serious workload issues after the employer cut back one-half of all RN hours with no increase in RPN hours. As a result, the employer has agreed to the posting of 3.5 full-time RN positions and to ensure all RN shifts are filled on the schedule prior to being posted.

► **Human Rights and Equity:** The Board approved the theme for the 2018 Human Rights and Equity Caucus, *Helping Members with Addictions*, which was proposed by the Human Rights and Equity Team after reviewing participant evaluations from last year.

► **Labour Relations:** ONA’s All-Sector Strategic Bargaining Project Team developed a memo for Local leaders on the legalization of cannabis and what

it means for our members. With the Senate recently voting to end its opposition to certain aspects of the federal bill, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced recreational marijuana will be legal in Canada as of October 17.

► **Health and Safety:** The spring Health and Safety Caucuses were very well received across the regions. The main focus of the day was on the value of health care experts conducting initial violence risk assessments, as well as an orientation to the Public Services Health and Safety Association’s Violence, Aggression and Responsive Behaviour (VARB) tool. A legal panel also updated participants on significant occupational health and safety legal cases.

► **Local Finance:** Mark your calendars! The next Treasurers Workshop and the New Local Coordinators Workshop will both take place on January 22-23, 2019, with the Local Coordinators/Treasurers Workshop following on January 24. Details will follow in the weeks and months to come.

► **Member Education:** We received an overwhelming number of applications for our annual Leadership Conference and Activist Summit, which will be held this September in Grand Bend. We have selected the candidates (up to 30 for each of three streams: Advanced, Novice and Activist), and a letter to the successful applicants has been sent. Thank you for your interest!

The Next Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 17-21 in Grand Bend to coincide with the Leadership Conference and Activist Summit.

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.