Board of Directors
(ONA President, First Vice-President and five Regional Vice-Presidents)

Please note: Candidates' Front Lines articles and photos are published in alphabetical order. To see their full resumes, log onto www.ona.org/board19. We are printing the candidates' Front Lines articles exactly as submitted. Spelling and grammatical errors have not been edited.
Vicki McKenna
LOCAL 100
ACCLAIMED

“Leadership-Perseverance-Dedication-Passion”

It is a privilege and an honour to be nominated for President of the Ontario Nurses’ Association for the upcoming 2020-2021 term. A proud RN for over 30 years; I served as your ONA First Vice-President for 12 years and President for two years. I am a professional, passionate, honest and articulate spokesperson for ONA members provincially as well as nationally; ensuring that the voice and priorities of Ontario’s nurses are heard and not forgotten.

I know firsthand that ONA and our members’ voices are highly credible and valued in public, government, nursing, labour and ally circles. Backed by a team that encompasses frontline to leadership, Board and staff; I have taken your views into meetings with cabinet and government officials at all levels, driving our members’ messages from Queen’s Park to town halls and media throughout the province.

ONA’s historically hard work at the bargaining table will be tested over these next few years. For most of my career, from ward representative at London Health Sciences Centre, through to Local 100 President; I have been a part of this crucial effort. My ONA leadership roles have ranged from bargaining-unit to chairing the Hospital Central Negotiating Team and, most recently, in an ex-officio role on all Provincial Bargaining Teams. ONA members have been rewarded with some of the best contracts in Canada; but this work continues.

You know the challenges we face: across-the-board reorganisation at all levels of care, inadequate funding, employer moves to reduce/replace us under the guise of budget constraints; legislation restricting contract improvements, and issues of workload and working conditions, including violence, harassment and discrimination; regulatory changes, continuing education cuts, cross-sectoral bargaining issues, as well as the implications of the public inquiry into LTC.

Our success is due to you; the members, who articulate so clearly the real stories of health care that you face daily. With well-earned credibility and respect, we are a force to be reckoned with. People know that when I speak to the issues, priorities and core values of our members, I do so with the knowledge of those day-to-day realities.

My ongoing mission aimed at workplace environments of high standards and high-quality care that enable us to practise in our respective professional roles within an environment of employer respect for what we do. I want to see every ONA member ready and confident to stand up for themselves; their profession, and their patients. ONA members will not accept workplace violence or excessive overtime. They will insist on baseline-staffing and appropriate over-capacity staffing on every unit, on every shift. ONA members will prioritise self care, breaks and guilt-free days off.

I believe that my experience, as well as the education and growth gained during my time as First Vice-President and as Provincial President have provided me with the drive, demonstrated experience and leadership skills to lead our union through the challenges ahead. I respectfully request your support in the tele-vote this fall.

Vote
Vicki McKenna
For
Ontario Nurses’ Association
Provincial President
vickim4onapres@gmail.com
“Leadership”

Simply put, “it is the art of motivating people to work towards achieving a common goal.” A leader is adaptive, empowering, inspiring and possess an instinctive caring nature, contributes, solves problems and fosters creativity.

Everyone on team ONA is a leader.

I am asking for your support to return for another term as ONA’s First-Vice President. ONA’s mission is to improve the economic welfare and quality of work-life for our members. I am asking for your support to continue representing you as your First-Vice President. I have a strong desire to continue working towards our goal to support ONA to maintain its true potential as the strongest union.

As First Vice-President, I will continue to be a confident vocal advocate for your rights. My first term as First Vice-President and years of leadership as a Bargaining Unit President, Local Coordinator, Chair of the Provincial Hospital Negotiating Team and Region 2 Vice-President provide me with a great foundation. I believe this exceedingly qualifies me to be your representative.

The First Vice-President holds the portfolio of Professional Practice and Political Action. It is ONA’s mandate to “increase members/public/government understanding of professional and union issues.” Today’s environment it is often challenging for us to meet our professional standards. Do we have the resources available to provide appropriate, safe, ethical care to our patients? I believe in the Professional Practice component within our collective agreement. We have made changes to the process to be more effective. I also believe it has a strong tie to Political Action. We have taken a more aggressive approach in our last Provincial Campaign. Awareness of health care challenges in our community is key. I will make it my priority to support and strive towards enhancing our fight supporting patient care in hospitals, long-term care, public health, industry and clinics.

Quality healthcare cannot exist without strong nurses and health professionals. I understand the importance of ensuring a safe, respectable environment; free from forced overtime work, violence, harassment, understaffed shifts and unsafe work environments. We do not live to work. Rather, we work to live. At ONA, my number one priority for our members is to ensure you have a quality work environment.

Our work is taxing. We are the foundation of the healthcare system. We advocate for our patients and safe, quality work environments. We know that the hours we spend as respected professionals are challenging. There is not a day that I regret choosing this path committing to fight for our rights. Even more so now that I have seen the bigger picture from a different angle.

My longtime leadership at ONA has provided me with the tools and experience necessary to continue serving as your First Vice-President. I always look for ways I can help people: and now, I turn to you. Please vote! Elect an experienced, leader that now has a strong foundation for your First Vice-President. I respectfully ask for your support in electing me

– Cathryn Hoy
Hello my name is Dawn Armstrong and I am running to be the next VP of Region 1. I have been a registered nurse for 29 years and currently work and reside in Dryden. I have worked as an emergency room nurse for the last 14 years and love the challenges the job brings. I am the Local Coordinator for Local 81 and am responsible for 13 bargaining units. I have all sectors including 6 hospitals, 3 nursing homes, public health, home care, allied and a health access centre. Being a multi bargaining unit local will be an asset to the board as I have been exposed to all sectors and the issues they face. I have been involved in the union for most of my career and held most positions at the bargaining unit level. My time as BUP was an excellent opportunity to develop leadership, negotiation and organizational skills. I took that knowledge and became treasurer of Local 81 in 1999 and worked in that position until 2014. The accountability required for this role was invaluable. Being responsible for the members money and budgeting to meet their needs was very rewarding. The next step was to become Local Coordinator and I am serving my third term. I feel I am an approachable leader and do my best to assist the Bargaining Unit Presidents in their roles. I don’t pretend to know everything and will seek answers from those who do know.

It would be an honor, as a longstanding ONA member and union activist, to now become the regional VP for Region 1. I would like to take all that I have learned over the years and use it to support the members, bargaining unit executives and the Local Coordinators. I can bring a fresh and new perspective to our board of directors.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to me, I can be reached at dkozak_99@yahoo.com or my cell phone 807-221-8141
What does ONA mean to you? For me, it means that I have a Union I know fights for the rights of its members and ensures that employers comply with the Collective Agreements that we have been able to negotiate for them. I will take a stand because my Union will support me whether it’s related to our Collective Agreements, Health and Safety, Human Rights or any other concerns that our members bring forward at a time when government is trying to erode the rights of our members of our union.

I have been a registered nurse for 33 years and a very active union member on the executive of local 46 as well as on the Board of Director's for the last 7 years. I had personal experience of how difficult it is with what seems like never enough support, working shorthanded, lack of breaks and being expected to meet the Ontario College of Nurse’s standards.

As the Vice President with the Human Rights portfolio I am Chair of the Provincial Human Rights Committee. I have advocated for effective joint health and safety committees, as well as working with Locals and Bargaining Units to make their Human Rights a priority in their workplaces.

I have worked with local leadership and other unions on behalf of the Ontario Nurses’ Association and will continue to advocate for our members rights to promote equity and diversity in the workplace and in the Union.

If re-elected, I commit to using all levels of government to lobby locally, regionally, provincially and through the Canadian Federation of Nurse’s Union to stop job losses by balancing their budgets on our member’s backs. We need to continue to challenge our employers and government about their policies, if they don’t put patient care first!

As a Union activist, I promise to work hard to achieve the RESPECT of your employer with proper wages that value your expertise and worth, provide us with safe work environments, free of harassment and intimidation. As well, we need to stay STRONG in our commitment to advocate for proper staffing levels to deliver quality patient care. Lastly, we need to be UNITED in our efforts as a Union across all sectors to address any further erosion in our rights under collective bargaining. I am committed to upholding the vision of a respected, strong and united union. I promise to never give up!

I ask for your support for the position of Vice-President of Region One. Please give me the opportunity to continue to serve you. I am committed to you. Please Vote for me...

In Solidarity Pam Mancuso VP Region 1
It is an honor and a privilege to be of service to the members of ONA since 1992 and to offer my service as the Vice-President for Region 2. I was the Vice president and president in the nineties of St-Vincent and Bruyere and have been the president for Bruyere Continuing care since 2004. I have done pretty much all the education from ONA. I am on many committees; Fiscal Advisory, Professional Development, Labor/Grievance, Joint Hospital Association (JHAC), I have been on the health and safety committee and I have been the chair of the local negotiation team for all the local negotiation rounds since 2004 and many rounds in the 90s. I have also helped to organize a rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in the mid-90s. I was elected as a member of the 2014-2016 Provincial negotiation.

As a registered nurse for more than 30 years, I worked at Montfort hospital, Gatineau Hospital, St-Vincent hospital, Bruyere hospital, Sandy Hill community Centre with the Mobile Crisis team. I have experience in pediatry, ortho, med-surg, peri-dialysis, rehabilitation, chronic care, palliative, mental health (in psychiatry and with the mobile crisis team) and family health team.

I am offering my service to help ensure our members are well protected, to explore new avenue to improve benefits and work life. The union belongs to all the members, ONA is a great organization and with ONA, I have become a better person, a stronger leader. I deeply believe in respect, collaboration, compassion, justice and fairness. In my book, nurses are angels at work. They should be able to enjoy an environment where the workload is adequate, where they are respected, safe and free of violence. Their rights should be respected and I want to ensure they have all the resources necessary to do so in a timely manner. Their work should be adequately compensated.

If elected as the Vice-president of Region 2, I promise to be your strong voice and to be there for all ONA members, to work in collaboration with the leadership to help make ONA and the membership stronger. I am ready to work hard, to study, to help and to have an open door policy. (Actually a NO door policy)

You are important; in fact the union belongs to you. You have a vote, it is very important that you exercise your RIGHT to vote, right to decide who will be your voice. ONA has a great saying; “Be Tough with the issues Be Kind with people”. I usually help people and rarely ask for help, in this instance, I am asking for your help. I am asking for your vote and for you to encourage other members to vote. I know how busy you are. When you receive the package to vote, please vote right away.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Solidarity

Serge Charron
Dear ONA Members
As the Region 2 Vice President it would my pleasure to continue reaching out and engaging all members in Region 2. Supporting, liaising, and listening to our Local Coordinators, Bargaining Unit Presidents, leaders and members is very important in order to represent you Regionally and Provincially. I have met so many of you over my recent term and will be able to draw on these interactions as well as my previous years of union and work experience. I will encourage you to become knowledgeable about your rights under your sector specific collective agreement and do my best to support you in your struggles. I will engage you to advocate for safe and healthy workplaces, encourage you to mentor our new nurses, assist you in becoming aware of the current political situation and how this affects your work. I commit to continue to work hard and improve on my abilities as your provincial leader. I will support our members to improve their work-life balance.

Being aware of your workload and the need to meet your CNO standards is so very important. This keeps you, our patients, and our co-workers safe. Accessing the workload reporting tools in our Collective Agreements is the only recourse we have recognized by the CNO. We have invested many hours of personal time and energy into our professional lives to have it taken away by the failure to report unsafe workloads/conditions and document. I will continue to encourage you in learning how to use this important tool.

Our Long Term Care nurses have undergone more than a year of scrutiny since the Long Term Care inquiry. I will continue to support the need for improved nurse patient ratios not only in LTC but in other sectors as well. As leaders in health and long term care it is up to us to advocate for changes in policies and to seek to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable patients. Standing up for provincially funded and administered healthcare is a necessity. I will continue to commit to our leader’s efforts to speak out.

There are many serious topics that nurses provincially and federally have become advocates for including safety of nurses in the workplace, ending workplace violence, PTSD inclusion, healthy work and quality patient care along with maintaining a publicly funded health care system, moving towards a national pharmacare program and recently being leaders as we align climate change with health. These are some of the issues we need to be aware of not only as nurses working in these environments but as citizens and we need to pass on this knowledge to our families, co-workers and the public. Being a leader goes hand in hand with being an advocate. I can promise that I will continue to work hard to be a good leader and an advocate. It truly is a time for Nurses to Act.

I respectfully seek your support for the position of Region 2 VP.

Sincerely,

Bernie (Bernadette) Robinson, Registered Nurse
I am running for the Region 3 Vice President and am looking for your support.

With more than 15 years of ONA Executive leadership experience, I have met countless amazing ONA frontline members and healthcare providers. I have witnessed the level of dedication and relentless efforts made by members to provide the best possible health care to the vast demographics they serve. Unfortunately, between employer constraints and government funding, this is not an easy task for members.

My passion for nursing and issues impacting ONA members comes from over 20 years in health care. I started with ONA as a Unit Rep, then gaining experience as Grievance Officer, Health and Safety Chair, PRW chairperson and Vice Coordinator.

I was recently elected to the Region 3 Hospital Central negotiations team. Currently, I serve as the Bargaining Unit President of Southlake Hospital Centre and Coordinator of Local 124. This diverse local, in the northern GTA, includes a Regional Centre, community hospital, several nursing homes and an allied health group.

Holding those who manage our workplaces accountable, for the care environments they are responsible for is something I have never backed away from.

Working at a busy regional hospital, I regularly contact with the Ministry of Labour and have assisted in three labour relations board appeals. Working with frontline members, I championed a vigorous PRW campaign in Southlake’s emergency department. This persistence resulted in leading the team towards an Independent Assessment Committee review, resulting in nearly 30 recommendations. In 2017, I collaborated with Southlake’s Respiratory Therapists to unionize their work force.

I have worked with other public sector health care unions through the Ontario Public Services Health and Safety Associations Workplace Violence Prevention in Healthcare leadership working group. This group, facilitated by the Ministries of Labour and Health and Long term Care, resulted in several recommendations to prevent workplace violence. I have also contributed to the 2018 CFNU Health Care Unions’ Roundtable.

I have also represented members and presented at the International Conference on Violence in Health Care in Dublin, Ireland and Toronto.

I know the struggles members face every shift. Nurses facing excessive workloads and practice concerns are worse than ever. ONA members exposed to physical violence and unnecessary vicious verbal assaults are a daily concern. Poor scheduling practices and excessive overtime demands place a level of stress on our membership, that few other professions would understand or experience.

I respect and value ONA’s Vision. I am committed to members who care for people. ONA has always been a leader and driving force among Canada’s healthcare Unions. Strong leadership is needed now more than ever to advocate on behalf of the members we serve. I want to represent your interests as the Region 3 VP to force change on many crucial issues.

Again, I ask you for your vote as Region 3 Vice-President. I commit to working tirelessly to enable you to provide the highest quality care your patients and residents deserve.

Please reach out to me with any comments or concerns.
CANDIDATES FOR REGION 3 • GREATER TORONTO AREA

Andy Summers
LOCAL 82

I brought my passion for healthcare advocacy from the UK in 1991. My nursing career has spanned 36 years: in nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, community, and mental health. I have been in ER at Mount Sinai Hospital for the last 28 years where I became involved in the Union as a unit rep, Grievance Chair, then Bargaining Unit President. My goal continues to be to affect change in our challenging profession.

I have worked extensively as Chairs of the ONA Human Rights and Equity Team and the Health and Safety Team, and have since focused on the Labour Relations Portfolio. The hazards we face across all sectors and regions of healthcare need tailored solutions to match the needs of our diverse membership, while acknowledging that women’s issues remain central. Membership feedback has driven the development of initiatives, education and other tools for information sharing, plus demonstrated the benefit of access to experts to address the safety issues in our workplace. Our challenges are provincial and realized right at our workplaces. With a no “one-size-fits-all” solution, I strive to Think Globally, Act Locally.

As we grow tomorrow’s healthcare advocates, I regularly speak with students allowing me to discuss issues affecting quality of care, and their value in the future of healthcare. Each semester I address Canadian-educated and Internationally Educated students to discuss aspects of the profession in our current climate, and future expectations.

Skills for success as a Board Member in our continually changing healthcare and worsening political environments include adaptability, dependability, transparency, and an ongoing leadership vision to ensure our Nursing Voice is broadcast loud and clear. Years of experience working with membership at the Local and Provincial levels have honed these skills. Specific formal education to better support the needs of our diverse membership includes:

- Facilitation Skills Training
- Media Training for dealing with Radio, TV and News reporters
- Effective Leadership Course
- Conflict Resolution Education
- Certified Worker under the Occupational Health and Safety Act

My professional vision continues to be:
1. To raise our professional profile, so our voice can be heard.
2. To work diligently so others (the public, politicians and our employers) recognize the value, professionalism and quality of care provided by nurses and health care professionals.
3. To enhance and develop relationships with allied organizations (like the RNAO and other healthcare unions), to build bridges with community and interest groups.
4. To remain focused on the working challenges of our membership.
5. To affect government policy that supports our work.

Re-elect Andy Summers

Achievements and successes come through passion, enthusiasm and hard work. I offer openness and the willingness to listen, to identify the issues and strategize solutions. I bring experience and support to the Association’s Membership to improve working conditions. I look forward to advocating for you, again, over the next two years, and I respectfully ask for your continued support as your Region 3 Representative.

Andy Summers
Dear ONA Leaders and Members

My name is Angela Preocanin and I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit my candidacy for the Ticket of Nomination. I am seeking your support for election as Region 4 Vice President, both to represent your interests and advocate on your behalf. If elected, this will be my number one priority.

As a long-standing member of ONA, I understand the importance of teamwork and people working together to leverage their individual and collective skills, and providing productive feedback to pursue common goals and interests. My approach has always been to seek outcomes that move teams forward. I've utilized my skills in diplomacy and communication developed over three decades to strive to accomplish this in all situations. This reflects the spirit in which ONA members operate – as a respected, strong and united team. As part of this collective team, I will stand up for and be dedicated to serving our members who care for people.

Over my 29 years as a Registered Nurse, I've had the privilege of providing patients with the care they deserve. Throughout my experience in many areas of nursing such as Thoracic, Head and Neck, Surgical Step Down, Urgent Care, and Dialysis, I've had the opportunity to truly understand the challenges our members face as they try to provide quality care under difficult conditions. I'm honored and deeply humbled to be part of what's known as the world’s most trusted profession, helping my patients become independent and manage self care with Home Hemodialysis.

In the past three decades that I’ve served in this profession, I’ve spent 20 years in progressively senior leadership roles with Local 75 including 1st Vice President and Grievance Chair, where I’ve overseen numerous mediations, grievances and arbitrations. I’ve also participated in bargaining to improve the socio-economic welfare and working conditions as a past member full time representative for Region 4 on Hospital Central Negotiating Team 2016-2018, 2018-2020 and presently 2020-2022. As the Joint Occupational Health and Safety worker Co-Chair, my passion for the right to a workplace free of violence continues to be my primary focus for our members. With more than two decades of leadership experience at ONA, I believe I’m well positioned to bring my leadership skills and unique capabilities to serve as Region 4 Vice President.

In my current role and as Region 4 Vice President, I will continue to uphold the organization’s values and safeguard its reputation as a passionate advocate for the improved economic status and working conditions for the Registered Nurses and Allied Health Professionals.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to continue serving your interests and that of our broader membership as Region 4 Vice President in future.

In solidarity,

Angela Preocanin RN
My sincere thanks to Region 5 leaders and members for the privilege of representing you for the past 11 years. It has been a pleasure to be your voice on the issues most important to you.

The challenges we currently face are huge. We have a government who is on a path of the largest restructuring of our health care system that we have ever seen. This government is integrating 1,800 health service providers into 30 – 50 multi service providers. The people's health care act does not improve any health care service.

Nurses know the impact to their patients as this reckless restructuring rolls out. Our government doesn’t seem to have a plan based on evidence and are not talking to stakeholders.

Our publicly delivered health care system is at significant risk. We believe that these new Health entities is an opening to privatization.

Hospital funding is at less than the rate of inflation and we are seeing significant RN job loss in our hospitals across the province. Rural services are at risk due to funding reductions.

Announcements reducing provincial funding for Public Health by 27 per cent and cutting the number of Public Health Units from 35 to 10 have left our members extremely concerned. The lack of autonomy to address local specific health needs puts our most vulnerable population at risk.

The LHIN boards are dissolved leaving our Care Coordinators extremely concerned wondering how they and the service they provide fits into this new Ontario health.

Our Long Term Care members have been working under immense pressure since the inquiry. It was positive to see the focus on systemic issues but the last thing we need is another study that delays implementing recommendations for one year.

We are in a time of change, we have a changed provincial government and we go to the polls to elect our federal government in October. We have private health care providers lobbying the government trying to get an even larger foothold into the delivery of health care services. ONA is doing all it can working with stakeholders and other unions to push back.

We must continue to tell our stories so that politicians see the human side of their decisions, the chaos they create and the impact to patients and our members. Across the region, we are telling our stories and making our voices heard on important issues, ensuring those in power now listen.

Our challenge is to continue to engage members when they are exhausted from the day-to-day demands in the workplace. We know collectively we can make an impact, so one member at a time we need to continue to move forward, building capacity within our union. Building capacity includes our students, the future face of nursing.

I am asking for your continued support in the upcoming tele-vote. I’m responsive to members’ issues and want to be part of the leadership team that helps guide us through these changing and challenging times. Feel free to contact me at: fkbertrand63@yahoo.ca
ONA VOTE 2019! | NOMINEES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ONA PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT AND FIVE REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS)

You can vote anytime from now until 4:00 p.m. November 1, 2019

If you have any questions or concerns, call (416) 964-8833 or toll-free at 1-800-387-5580 (immediately hit “0” to be connected to the Toronto office), followed by voicemail box 7748.
You can also send an email to chiefelectoralofficer@ona.org.

TO VOTE BY PHONE:
1 Call 1-877-369-7965.
2 Enter your language choice (English or French), ONA ID and PIN (recently mailed to you).
3 Listen to the easy-to-follow prompts.
4 Select the candidate of your choice and don’t forget to confirm your selection.

TO VOTE ONLINE:
1 Vote online at https://ona.simplyvoting.com.
2 Enter your language choice (English or French), ONA ID and PIN (recently mailed to you).
3 Follow the instructions on screen.
4 Select the candidate of your choice and don’t forget to confirm your selection.

Vote online or by phone!