



## Ontario Nurses' Association

85 Grenville Street, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3A2

TEL: (416) 964-8833 TOLL-FREE: 1-800-387-5580, EXT 0

FAX: (416) 964-8864 AND 1-866-964-8864

# UPDATE

**To:** Bargaining Unit Presidents, Hospital Sector

**From:** Cathryn Hoy, RN, Chair, Hospital Central Negotiating Team

**Date:** May 24, 2018

**Re:** Update to Hospital Central Negotiations

**C:** ONA President Vicki McKenna, Board of Directors, Local Coordinators, Hospital Central Negotiating Team, All Staff

---

On March 22, 2018 the Government of Ontario announced an additional investment of \$822 million in operational funding to Ontario hospitals for the 2018-19 fiscal year. This new funding represents an increase of 4.6 per cent which was included in the new budget introduced by the government on March 28, 2018.

With this new information, on April 9, 2018 the Ontario Nurses' Association submitted a supplementary submission to the Kaplan Board of Arbitration indicating that this new funding represents a material change in the funding available to Participating Hospitals and that it further supports ONA's proposed wage and benefit improvements. In addition, this increase in hospital funding is the highest increase in the last 10 years. ONA submitted that this new information is relevant under s. 9 (1.1) of the *Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act* (HLDA) that the Kaplan Board of Arbitration must consider.

Following a production order by Arbitrator Kaplan for the hospitals to provide ONA with a list of vacancies requested, the information trickled in during and after the arbitration hearing. Only 62 of the 132 Participating Hospitals responded to the order. Of the 47 per cent of hospitals that did respond, the data revealed 4385 vacancies. ONA submits that this is significant evidence of an RN retention and recruitment issue within the Participating Hospitals that the Kaplan Board must take into consideration under HLDA.

To date, the Kaplan Arbitration Board has held several executive sessions both in person and via conference calls. All submissions are now in and a further session will be scheduled and an award will follow.

We will continue to push forward to achieve a collective agreement that demonstrates respect and values the work of ONA members.

If you have any questions for the HCNT, please send them to ONA President Vicki McKenna at [vickim@ona.org](mailto:vickim@ona.org). Vicki will see that they are brought to my attention.

Provincial Office: Toronto

Regional Offices: Ottawa • Hamilton • Kingston • London

Orillia • Sudbury • Thunder Bay • Timmins • Windsor