I am writing to you as the newly elected chair of the 2020 Hospital Central Negotiating Team (HCNT). I would like to begin by introducing the members of the team who are privileged to represent you:

Region 1
Kelly Latimer, Health Sciences North, Local 13 (Chair)
Colleen MacKillop, Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Local 81

Region 2
Patty O’Shaughnessy, Cornwall Community Hospital, Local 42
Ruth Eveleigh, The Ottawa Hospital, Local 83

Region 3
Emmanuel (Manny) Ajayi, Scarborough Health Network, Local 111
Jane Penciner, North York General Hospital, Local 6

Region 4
Carol Gunsch, Grand River Hospital Corporation, Local 139
Jennifer Cepukas, Grand River Hospital Corporation, Local 139

Region 5
Alan Warrington, London Health Sciences Centre, Local 100
Jo-Dee Brown, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, Local 8

Ex-officio
Vicki McKenna, Provincial President
Cathryn Hoy, First Vice President
Beverly Mathers, Chief Executive Officer

Your team is ready to go! HCNT completed its formal orientation the week of January 20-24, 2020.

Thank you for completing the online Have-a-Say questionnaire, which we have reviewed, including hospital-sector bargaining priorities. There are more than 1,000 pages of comments in this survey and we have read each one. The comments have many similar and consistent themes, which we will address in bargaining.

The team has reviewed the current contract, and reviewed research and feedback from members and staff on identified issues. The team also reviewed the realities of government legislation (Bill 124 –
Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act) and ONA’s Charter Challenge, which has been filed. We also began the process of developing our formal bargaining proposals, which will be tabled with the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) bargaining team in February.

We are getting ready to proceed with bargaining and have set the following dates for negotiations with participating hospitals: February 10-14, 2020 and February 24-28, 2020.

The OHA has not yet advised us of the names of the members on their Negotiating Team.

Should we not be able to resolve the issues at bargaining, the participating hospitals and ONA have agreed to mediate any outstanding issues. Mediation will take place with Mediator Elizabeth McIntyre from February 27-28, 2020. Should we not settle at mediation, we have agreed to proceed to arbitration before Arbitrator John Stout on March 25-26, 2020.

We will be communicating to ONA leadership on our progress through email with the hospital Bargaining Unit Presidents, at Area Coordinators Conferences (ACCs), the Provincial Leadership Meeting and Provincial Coordinators Meetings (PCMs). Our updates will also be available on ONA’s website on the home page under "Hospital Bargaining 2020" or directly at www.ona.org/bargaining. Members of the team may, from time to time, contact Bargaining Unit Presidents in their regions for any feedback the team may need.

To assist the HCNT in communicating to ONA members on our progress, we ask Bargaining Unit Presidents to add HCNT updates to their meeting agendas, to post them on their worksite bulletin boards or social media, and to provide hard copies where members do not have access to ONA's website.

If you have any questions for the HCNT, please contact ONA President, Vicki McKenna at vickim@ona.org. Our President will see that any questions are brought to my attention.