Hello, everyone, and welcome to the inaugural issue of Learning Links, your publication of everything (ONA) education!

We know your lives are busy, but we also know that you want to stay on top of the latest information about your rights and responsibilities as union leaders/front-line members and RNs/health-care professionals. We hope that Learning Links, as a companion to our flagship Front Lines magazine, will provide you with the information needed on how you can do precisely that.

ONA’s fabulous Membership Education and Events (MEE) Team continues to support the organizational strategic goals and objectives by providing members with education workshop sessions that enhance your skill sets. We offer ONA education through our Responsive Education Model (REM), a progressive, reflective and fiscally responsive curriculum delivery vehicle. While REM is in its infancy, we continue to review our progress and collect feedback on the process and how it is working for our Local leaders. Please continue to let us know!

On a personal note, I would like to say it has been an absolute privilege to represent members through my education portfolio since I joined the ONA Board of Directors earlier this year. I don’t believe ONA’s extensive education program – from workshops to eLearning to teleconnects (to name but a few) – can be matched by any other union out there, and I am beyond proud of the quality and variety of our courses. Please take advantage of all we offer!

In the immortal words of Malcolm X, “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Let us help you prepare for that future now.

Region 1

So far, an impressive 21 workshops have been delivered in Region 1 this year. The following foundational and provincial workshops will be offered in the fall:

• Grievance Process – October 10, Dryden.
• Professional Responsibility Workload – October 17, Timmins.
• Making it Count at Investigations and Disciplinary Meetings – November 1, Thunder Bay.
• Making it Count at Return to Work and Accommodation Meetings – October 25, Sudbury.

Region 2

This year, your Region’s Choice education is being held on September 14 at the Ambassador Hotel in Kingston on the critical topic of Return to Work/Accommodation. It is open to all members from all Locals. If you are interested, please contact your Local Coordinator.

At the last Area Coordinators Conference, Region 2 Local Coordinators decided to explore the possibility of having Labour Schools in the Region. A Labour School provides two to three different workshops on the same day and can run for two to three days, depending on what workshops
have been determined necessary. This is in the exploratory stage at this point, but is an intriguing possibility. Stay tuned!

Several workshops have been scheduled for Region 2, right up until November 22. Go to www.ona.org/education and click on the “calendar” icon to see if you might be interested in any of them! As always, before you register, contact your Local Coordinator for approval if you are taking a day off and are looking for wage replacement if. See you at an upcoming workshop!

Region 3
Thanks so much to Local Coordinators who submitted their education plans in February, as it made calendar planning much easier and more efficient in this Region.

There have been fewer cancellations to date of Region 3 workshops as a result of this planning, but we recognize there were issues with workshops booked early that had to be rescheduled for a later date. As a result, the Membership Education and Events (MEE) Team will be revisiting the process around timing for next year.

MEE Team Labour Relations Assistant (LRA) Danielle Street will be providing temporary LRA support for Region 3, filling in for Georgia Katsabanis. Until further notice, please send all workshop registrations to Danielle in the Toronto office at danielles@ona.org.

Watch for Making it Count at Labour Management Meetings, which is being held on October 25 in Toronto.

Region 4
There are some exciting things happening in Region 4!

Pennee Koczka, your Education Prime, tied the knot in Scotland in June. Congratulations, Pennee!

Region 4 will be hosting Grievance Process on October 19 in Thorold and Professional Responsibility Workload Reporting Process on October 12 in Guelph. Join us if you can! Talk to your Local Coordinator to register.

Region 5
October 5 is the Region’s Choice workshop on Violence: Be Savvy and Safe and The Power of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, ONA and You, being held in London. Please plan to be there to network and get educated on these important topics!

To date this year, 19 workshops have been delivered in Region 5, with only one cancellation. Let’s continue this trend!

What is an Education Prime?

ONA’s Education primes work with Local Coordinators to ensure that you are receiving the education sessions that you need and are asking for.

Education primes for each Region are as follows:

- REGION 1 – Pat Caldwell (patca@ona.org).
- REGION 2 – Donna Eberle (donnae@ona.org).
- REGION 3 – Lorraine Harper (lorraineh@ona.org).
- REGION 4 – Pennee Koczka (penneek@ona.org).
- REGION 5 – Helle Little (hellel@ona.org).
- FLOATERS – Svetlana Lazareva (svetlanal@ona.org) and Amleek Mahngar (amleekm@ona.org).

Please take advantage of all these education primes have to offer.
ONA's eLearning platform continues to be an important option for members, with an impressive 25 different programs available in this format.

Have a spare bit of time? Like to learn at your own pace and in your own space? We don’t mind that you are wearing your bunny slippers and sipping your hot beverage of choice – pick an eLearning topic and let’s get started!

Some of the most popular choices are: Professional Responsibility Workload Reporting Form – Hospital Sector; Return to Work Level I: Is Your Workplace Making You Sick?; Professional Responsibility Workload Reporting Process – Allied Health Sector; Negotiations Basic: What Members Need to Know; Return to Work Level II: Legislation.

Don’t have an eLearning account set up yet? Call the MEE Team’s Labour Relations Assistant Danielle Street at (416) 964-8833 or (toll-free) 1-800-387-5580, ext. 2365 and she will walk you through the very user-friendly process.

You will find our eLearning course options at www.ona.org/education (click on the “eLearning” icon). Come check out our eLearning catalogue! The possibilities are endless!

Tell-a-Member to Teleconnect!

Province-wide education over the phone – known as teleconnects – has become a huge success over the past couple of years due to its easy access and replay options.

ONA teleconnects, generally 90 minutes in length, cover many hot-topic items under several broad categories, such as hospital contract interpretation, human rights and equity, health and safety, professional practice, long-term care, Local secretaries and nurse practitioners. The Membership Education and Events Team even has its own teleconnects!

To learn more about ONA teleconnects, visit www.ona.org/education and click on the “teleconnect” icon.

ONA 2017 Convention

The ONA 2017 Convention is just around the corner!

The convention will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle in downtown Toronto from December 5 - 7. The week kicks off on December 4 with our annual Human Rights and Equity Caucus on racial profiling and wraps up on December 8 with a half-day education session (topic to be determined). An agenda will be out shortly highlighting the week.

See you in December as we Get Loud!
Up and Coming Events

The Leadership Summit and Activist Camp 2017 will be held at the Oakwood Resort in Grand Bend from September 18 - 22. ONA members are “Getting Loud” in workshops for Activist, Novice and Advanced skill levels, and participating in team-building activities that will bring the whole group together.

Acceptance letters have been sent to those who were successful in the application process, and planning for a successful conference is well underway.

Didn’t apply this year, but interested in future summits? Look for promotional material at next year’s Joint Sector Meeting, being held March 27 - 28, 2018 at the Sheraton Centre in downtown Toronto.