

ONA WINS



SUMMARY OF ANOTHER SUCCESS AS YOUR UNION STRIVES TO IMPROVE YOUR WORKING CONDITIONS

Home and Community Care Bill 175 Passes

Bill 175, the Connecting People to Home and Community Care Act received royal assent on June 9 and is now law. This was a key legislative component in the government's long-planned restructuring of home and community care.

ONA has been consistently raising concerns around losing the important role of care coordination and the dangers of further privatization. We are especially alarmed that the legislation suggests care coordinators must be part of the Regulated Health Professions Act, which significantly impacts care coordinators who are social workers. Crucially, it is a very "skeletal" bill, removing essentially everything from existing legislation and putting it into regulation, which has not yet been finalized.

To date, ONA has prepared several submissions on Bill 175 to demand that the government meaningfully solve the problems in home and community care, starting with staffing and working conditions.

After months of meetings and lobbying on behalf of social workers, representatives from the Ministry of Health informed us just as *Front Lines* headed to print that it was not the intent of the government to exclude social workers from working as care coordinators under the new home care regulation that is being drafted – a huge win for us!

As the government continues to consult on regulations, ONA Local Health Integration Network members will keep up our key advocacy role by putting pressure on your local MPPs. It's making a difference!

(Front Lines, Fall 2020 edition)

Follow ONA on social media:   @ontarionurses.

Download the ONA App from the App Store or Google Play. Search for: Ontario Nurses' Association