

# ONA WINS



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

## Wins in LTC

While ONA has advocated for years on appropriate staffing, inspections and infection control measures, COVID-19 has brought these serious inadequacies to the forefront, with the vast majority of outbreaks and deaths occurring in this sector.

ONA filed an injunction against the for-profit Rykka Care Centres, and its operating partner Responsive Group, which owns and manages a chain of LTC homes that had seen more than 50 resident deaths due to COVID-19: Eatonville Care Centre, Anson Place and Hawthorn Place. ONA filed a similar application regarding Henley Place, managed by Primacare Living.

In its April 23 ruling, the Superior Ontario Court ordered the four homes to immediately rectify health and safety issues that resulted in these deadly COVID-19 outbreaks and comply with public health directives. Our members now have access to the PPE they need to protect themselves and their residents, and make decisions on PPE use and other health and safety measures based on their assessments.

It didn't end there. After ONA raised concerns about access to proper PPE and infection control practices at dozens of other LTC homes, Arbitrator John Stout released an arbitration decision on May 5 that provides clear direction, concluding that in both the SARS outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic, the province was "unprepared." Those LTC homes must now follow directives, the ONA collective agreement, and occupational health and safety laws regarding access to PPE, communications, testing, cleaning, staffing, cohorting of residents, and self-isolation.

*(Front Lines, Summer 2020 edition)*

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