

The importance of Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) for nurses is extremely significant as they support, guide and are the voice of Ontario's knowledgeable and experienced nurses and allied health professionals. Together the ONA team is respected, united and committed to excellence in patient care in all health-care sectors.

Since 1973, ONA has worked collectively with members to ensure our front-line nurses working in hospitals, public health, community health centers, home care, family health teams, long-term care and private clinics can provide the quality care our patients expect and deserve. My Mother has been a member of this amazing union for almost 30 years this year, firstly working in acute care hospital for 22 years and now in community health care. My Mother has always spoken very admirably of the support and guidance offered and the communication between their members. During these 30 years my Mother has experienced the backing and assistance of ONA during amalgamation of hospitals, bumping process and a STRIKE which was the first for my Mother and many of her respected colleagues. The huge guidance, presence and united front the ONA team members walked, talked and experienced the bitterly cold that 2015 winter brought Ontario and kept the nurses spirits up.

I am really looking forward to becoming part of this amazing union and having the right to participate in the activities, educational workshops and membership meetings just like my Mother. I too am going to be very active in the union and see how us nursing students can become more involved to strengthen and support the hard-working nurses we will be learning from. I am very interested in the health and safety aspect of workplaces as I have heard some stories from my Mother working in emergency room and now out in the community. The Act gives workers the "right to know," the "right to participate" and the "right to refuse unsafe work" and I believe everyone in the world should have this amazing support.