

The Importance of the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) for Nurses

Hannah Mercado

April 30, 2018 was the day I decided my future. This date was the day I accepted my offer for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) at Sault College. Growing up I always wanted to help others. As cliché as it sounds, I wanted to keep doing the little things that made a big impact in someone's life. By choosing to be a future nurse I felt that I could make this impact. However, I knew that I would not be able to make this impact alone.

ONA is an advocate for Nurses. ONA ensures that the quality of their environment enables them to give the utmost care to their clients. Furthermore, ONA is a union. It is an outlet that allows nurses to voice their concerns with their working conditions, from the lack of resources and being understaffed to their wages and their rights as a nurse. ONA is a platform that listens to its members and takes action to make things better.

My parents are members of ONA and they told me that ONA has helped them in many ways. They stated that they are lucky to be a part of a union that cares about them and are always there during the challenges that come across their career.

ONA is built upon its past, present and future members. As a student nurse, I am hopeful that ONA will continue to support its members and be their voice. When I graduate in 2020, I will feel satisfied knowing that ONA will support me at any point of my career and will be there during the highs and the lows. They'll help me have a voice to ensure that I can keep doing the little things that make a huge impact on all my patients.