




Ontario Nurses' Association

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To: Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Bargaining Unit Presidents

From: Lorna Thompson, RN, Chair, VON Central Negotiating Team  R.N.

Date: March 16, 2023

Re: **VON Central Negotiating Team (VONCNT) Update**

C: Board of Directors, Local Coordinators, VONCNT, Staff

I am writing to you as the newly elected Chair of the 2023 VONCNT. I would like to begin by introducing the members of the team who are privileged to represent you:

Tammy Bertrand, VON Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Local 7, Region 4

Lucja Masoom, VON Thunder Bay and District, Local 14, Region 1

Lorna Thompson, VON Toronto/York-Peel, Local 43, Region 3 (Chair)

Ex-officio

Bernadette Robinson, Interim President

Angela Preocanin, First Vice-President

Your team is ready to go! The VONCNT completed its formal orientation March 14-16, 2023.

Thank you for completing the online *Have-Your-Say* questionnaire, which we have reviewed, including the VON sector bargaining priorities. We have read each and every one of your comments from this survey. The comments have many similar and consistent themes, which we will address in bargaining.

The team has reviewed the current contract, and reviewed research and feedback from members and staff on identified issues. We also began the process of developing our formal bargaining proposals.

We are ready to proceed with bargaining and have set March 28-30 and May 16, 2023 for negotiations with the Participating VON branches. We have finalized the Memorandum of Conditions for Joint Bargaining. Once signed, it will be sent to you.

If we are unable to resolve the issues at bargaining, the VON and ONA have agreed to mediate any outstanding issues. We have agreed to Matthew Wilson as the mediator and mediation will take place May 17-18, 2023. Should we not settle at mediation, we have agreed to proceed to arbitration before Arbitrator John Stout on June 26, 2023.

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We will be communicating to ONA leadership on our progress through email with the VON Bargaining Unit Presidents at the Provincial Leadership Meeting (PLM) and Provincial Coordinators Meetings (PCMs). Our updates will also be available directly at www.ona.org/bargaining. Members of the team may, from time to time, contact Bargaining Unit Presidents in their regions for any feedback the team may need.

To assist the VONCNT in communicating to ONA members on our progress, we ask Bargaining Unit Presidents to add VONCNT updates to their meeting agendas, to post them on their worksite bulletin boards, Local website and/or social media, and to provide hard copies where members do not have access to ONA's website.

If you have any questions for the VONCNT, please contact ONA Interim President, Bernie Robinson at bernier@ona.org who will see that any questions are brought to my attention.