

Erin Ariss

NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT

Dear ONA Members,

It has been an honour to serve as your Provincial President for the past 16 months and you may have noticed some changes. First and foremost, ONA sounds different, and we look different. This is because members have spoken, and I have listened.

ONA Members demand that we tell Ontarians the truth. Since I became President, ONA has been mentioned in the media more than 6970 times, we have written and made submissions to Government and the CNO at an unprecedented rate, presented to standing committees at Queen's Park and saw the end of Bill 124 once and for all.

Our voice is not just in the media and before the Government. ONA Members have risen up and found their voices in the streets. Whether it be in Thunder Bay or Ottawa, London or Kitchener, Bracebridge or Belleville, I have travelled to be with you and win with you! ONA Members have been clear about what our demands are, and we are making history together.

My first day as Provincial President was spent at Hospital Arbitration. I believe that everyone must be included and that's why I decided it was time to release our Arbitration brief for the first time in ONA's history. With that release, ONA Members could see firsthand what our demands were. Following the historic Kaplan decision, we held our first sector meeting open to all members. I promised transparency so I didn't stop there. We changed the way we bargain. I asked that members be included in creating the proposals we put before their Employers. We started with Long Term Care and held meetings across the province so that members could tell their elected team what they wanted to see in their contracts. Members then voted on the proposals, and we achieved another historical award with unprecedented wage increases in that sector.

We will continue this process in the Hospital sector, VON and HCCSS. To build strong Bargaining Units, Members must drive the bargaining process because settling is not an option.

I have travelled all over Ontario to meet with you, and there is a common theme. Hope. Employers and Governments have taken notice of ONA. The truth is that we are all ONA. We must continue to build our power collectively through solidarity with each other, our union siblings, our communities and our allies. Our organizing will need to be even stronger and our voices even louder for we are at stake.

I am proud of the progress we are making together and excited at the thought of what we can achieve in the next three years. We are not going back.

Solidarity,

Erin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Erin' written in a cursive, flowing style.