

Bernadette (Bernie) Robinson

NOMINEE FOR TREASURER

Hello ONA Members!

As a proud ONA member and Registered Nurse, I am seeking election for the Board of Directors position of Treasurer. This role is described in the Provincial Treasurer Description and is a governance role working specifically with the Local Treasurers and the Manager – Local finance to ensure the financial stability of Locals.

It is my intent to bring my years of ONA experiences at the Bargaining Unit, Local and Provincial level to this role. I am committed to upholding the Vision, Mission and Values of ONA in the inaugural term of Treasurer. I believe I have the experience and knowledge required to meet the Board Common Mandate and the duties and responsibilities of this role. I have worked diligently to promote the objectives of our union and to uphold the rights of all members for the past 7 years in the position of Region 2 Vice President, the portfolio roles of Education and Local Finance, and as ONA's Interim President from November of 2022 to May of 2023. Prior to my Board experience I spent 9 years as Local 49 Coordinator and 10 years prior to that as Local 49 Treasurer. In all of these positions I have gained intimate working knowledge of Local Finance and its policies, Fiduciary accountability, Supplemental funding, ONA's constitution and bylaws, ONA policies and the responsibilities and accountabilities of all leadership roles.

I am and will continue to be a Board Member that is highly engaged and speaks up for members to have their concerns addressed. I take my work very seriously and I work tirelessly. I believe in lifting people up, mentoring and succession planning and that this is extremely important for the viability of ONA. Supporting, liaising, and listening to our members is key for us as leaders.

In my current portfolio role as VP of Local finance, I mentor and support Local Treasurers in understanding their responsibilities and accountabilities from a Governance perspective. This is done through one-on-one meetings, and assisting with developing and providing Education and Treasurer connects. I have also assisted all Local Executives to understand their fiduciary responsibilities. Using ONA's Constitution and Mandatory Financial Policies I guide and support Locals with their strategic fiscal planning, assist with developing their Local Budgets and Policies. I assist Locals with year end financial practices and audits, and I provide support to Supplementally Funded Locals with their unique challenges. I guide all Local treasurers and Executives when they identify concerns. This mentorship helps to ensure that membership dues are spent with integrity

In my work as Region 2 VP and in the Local Finance Portfolio I encourage Bargaining Units and Locals to promote opportunities for members to become knowledgeable of their Collective Agreements and to advocate for their rights. I have an excellent working relationship with many Local Coordinators and Local Treasurers. Along with ONA Simply help team we have educated and assisted approximately 30 new treasurers in this last year and provided guidance to some that have been in the role much longer. Fostering these relationships as well as relationships with the Manager of Local Finance, the Simply Help Team and our Chief Financial Officer benefits all our members. A team-work ethic is paramount to the success of all persons in these roles.

We are currently experiencing more uncertainty than ever before in many sectors. As Region 2 VP I have supported Bargaining Units in Strike positions. As the Treasurer I will work with fellow Board members to assist Bargaining Units, Local Coordinators and our PSLRTA specialists in any future campaigns where they are impacted by the Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act. I will help recruit and retain ONA members. My core belief is that ONA is the best union to represent Nurses and Healthcare Professionals!

I believe a blend of experience in ONA leadership is necessary and that key roles in leadership require persons with experience. I believe strongly in the education and mentorship of members and succession planning within Bargaining Units and Locals. I have demonstrated support of members and those in every leadership role.

I have met many of you over my recent terms on ONA's Board and I will continue to draw on these interactions. I have encouraged you to understand your rights under your sector specific collective agreements and have done my best to support you in your struggles. I have stood by you, spoke out publicly and rallied with many during our awareness campaigns, over ridiculous Government bills like 124 and 175. I continue to advocate for safe and healthy workplaces. I have helped our members to become aware of current political situations and policies and how they can affect our work environments. I will continue to support the need for nurse patient ratios and fair workloads in all sectors. As leaders in healthcare, it is up to us to advocate for changes in policies and to seek to improve outcomes for ourselves and our patients, residents and clients.

Being a leader goes hand in hand with being an advocate. I can promise that I will continue to learn from you and work hard as a leader and an advocate for you!

I truly believe I am the best candidate for the position of Treasurer and I respectfully seek your support.

Sincerely,
Bernie (Bernadette) Robinson, Registered Nurse