

**Rachel Muir**

**NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT REGION 2**

Over the last four years it has been my honour to represent the members of ONA83, The Ottawa Hospital (TOH) as their Bargaining Unit President and Local Coordinator. I would now like to have a larger impact by representing not only the members of ONA83, but also the ONA healthcare professionals of Region 2, bringing your unique needs and concerns to the Provincial board.

Region 2 is a region of diverse healthcare professionals providing care in a variety of settings and environments from small long term care homes, community health care, to large city small rural hospitals. As I represent you, I will learn about your unique working environments, the needs, challenges and obstacles you face every time you go to work to and the patients you serve, working with you so I can represent and support you as your voice on the Provincial board.

During my tenure as ONA83 Bargaining Unit President and Local Coordinator I have witnessed a Provincial Government pit union against union, union member against union member with draconian, misogynistic bills like 124 and 128. They did not prevail. Our union came together and along with the Health Care unions of the province we proved that we can not be divided, that together we are strong, powerful, united and trusted.

When TOH made the decision to bring unregulated care providers into the ORs across the campuses the nurses came together and with the support of myself and ONA83 they educated their colleagues getting them to sign a petition they presented to the Chief Nursing Officer demanding the cancellation of this dangerous plan. They were successful and continue to fight for safe staffing levels that include the right skill and knowledge mixes. Together we have shown that when we unite change is possible. Let me stand with each of you, work with each of you and make change possible across our region.

I have stood beside members from The Ottawa Hospital and across the region as we have rallied and picketed, demanding better working conditions, fair wages and safe staffing ratios. I have walked with nurses during times of extreme grief and heartbreak and will continue to do this whenever needed.

Recent events, Government actions, demands from members and leaders alike have seen changes in how our union works and communicates with us and for us. There is transparency, inclusion, and action. We have become a powerful, empowered, visible professional organisation. One that listens to the voices of members and acts. It is imperative that our union continues on this path of empowerment and strength, transparency and communication. As you region 2 Vice President it is my intention to come to you, meet and talk with you so I can take your reality to Toronto, continuing this open and inclusive dialogue and change so together we can work towards work environments that are healthy and supportive for those who provide care as well as those who receive it.

If elected to the position of Region 2 Vice President I will continue to grow the cooperation and respect we see within our union and with our health care union brothers and sisters,

not only in Ottawa, but across the region, as we collectively hold our employers accountable for the devastation they have wrought, and continue to wreak, on our health care system by underfunding, devaluing, undermining our professions, cutting our workforce and forcing us into untenable situations, putting our health and the health of the patients we care for at risk.

Over the past 4 years we have faced, and continue to face, the worst under staffing crisis health care has ever seen, and Ontario has the dubious distinction of having the lowest nurse to population ratio in the country. This is a crisis that has been created and potentiated by a Provincial Government that is determined to not only devalue, degrade and demean the work of all health care professionals, but also erode and degrade our healthcare system by selling it off to the highest bidder.

My response to this has been to become an active member of the Ontario Health coalition (OHC), speaking at meetings and rallies about the current state of health care. I have made it my business to speak with local media at every possible opportunity, voicing the challenges faced by you, the frontline health care professional, as daily working conditions become more and more difficult. I have established relationships with local MPPs, speaking out about the healthcare crisis with them and Federal politicians putting forward the short and long term solutions ONA has proposed and developed to start the process of rebuilding health human resources and our publicly owned and operated health care system in Ontario. Solutions that will not only see the retention and recruitment of nurses and health care professionals, but will see you, who are those professionals, receive the compensation, working conditions and respect they are entitled to. If elected as your Region 2 Vice President, I will continue to develop and maintain these relationships as well as those with public sector, health care and local unions, the media and local politicians.

Therefore, I humbly ask for your support during this election and that you afford me the honour and privilege of representing you as your Region 2 Vice President so together we can work towards our common goal of a strong, respected, valued professional workforce, for we are a union of diverse and knowledgeable professionals with much to accomplish as we unite in purpose and spirit.

Rachel Muir

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**(Signature of Candidate)**