

Template Letter to the Editor

Contact your local newspaper and submit the following letter to the editor. You can sign off with your name but leave out information that may identify your specific workplace.

Date, Letter to the Editor, Newspaper Name

To the Editor:

Re: In this federal election, vote for your health care

The outcome of this federal election will determine the fate of Canada's cherished health-care system. The Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) is asking voters to demand strong, public and universal health-care system by electing a government that will fix what ails the system now.

Currently in this province, our health-care system is chronically underfunded, has a worsening understaffing crisis and increasing influence from private, for-profit corporations. This has left all of us with longer wait times, services cuts and even hospital emergency department closures.

Nurses and health-care professionals are struggling to care for patients in the midst of an endless cycle of unsafe staffing, workplace violence and burnout. Many are looking for the exit.

We should all demand more, because it doesn't have to be this way.

The health-care system must be expanded in rural and northern areas, as well as in urban centres, to ensure that everyone has access to timely care.

The federal government has the means and resources to make it better. Every voter has the option of electing a federal government that will improve access to public health care, a government that will uphold and enforce the *Canada Health Act*, keep our health-care system publicly funded and publicly delivered. We have the chance to elect a government that will make nurse staffing ratios in every sector the standard for safe patient care.

We need a federal government that will provide additional funds through Federal Health Transfers and further expand the system. Health care isn't just about acute medical care. We need to elect a government that funds the elements that keep people healthier in the first place – child care, affordable housing, expanded pharma and dental care to name just a few.

Please think hard about who will support access to the health and well-being of Canadians and vote accordingly. Your health care depends on it.

Name, address, contact information (phone number/email)