

## **Board of Directors Nominee Article**

**Date:** April 21, 2025

**Name:** Karen Boutilier, Registered Nurse

**Nominee For:** Vice-President, Region 5

Throughout my nursing career, I have a wide variety of Nursing experience, working in the Hospital, Home Care and Long-Term Care Sectors.

### **MOST RECENT**

With 25 years of experience as the elected Bargain Unit President at City of Windsor Municipal Long Term Care Home – Huron Lodge, I've had the honor of representing and advocating for ONA members through countless negotiations, challenges, and victories.

As a nominee, I offer not only historical perspective but also a clear, forward-thinking vision for the future, grounded in transparency, fairness, and the voices of the members I serve.

With over 25 years of experience as the elected Bargaining Unit President, I bring a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and dedication to labor advocacy. Throughout this tenure, I have been a steadfast advocate for nurses and healthcare professionals, while representing ONA members with dedication and integrity at the Municipal bargaining level.

Elected to serve as Bargaining Unit President and Vice President for 25 consecutive years, demonstrating trust, leadership skills, serious dedication, and sustained commitment to ONA members by remaining calm and diplomatic, while showing understanding and respect for others and respecting other opinions and points of view.

I have led numerous rounds of collective successful contract negotiations, represented members in group and individual Grievance, including Arbitration, Practice & Workload Complaints, Return to Work/Accommodations, Human Rights and Equality championed workplace equity. With my unwavering commitment to protected members' rights. I also have supported and advanced the priorities of every day frontline Health Care Workers in every forum -from the negotiation table, membership engagement and political action while cultivating strong relations between union members and management as well as the public.

Known for a collaborative leadership style and a deep understanding of organizational dynamics, I have consistently worked to improve working conditions and protect the rights of ONA members. This long-standing commitment and proven ability to navigate complex challenges make me a strong and experienced candidate for the Region 5 Board of Directors position.

Currently I work as a Full Time Registered Nurse for 29 years at Huron Lodge LTC.

My job titles have included Staff Nurse, RP Nurse, Staff development Co-Ordinator /Nurse Educator, Quality Improvement Facilitator. I am the current elected Bargain Unit President for the last 25 years and Staff Development Co-coordinator/ Nurse Educator for last 15 years.

I believe my passion, education and work experience will contribute significantly to the ONA Board Leadership Team. I have a unique and diverse perspective. My long-standing leadership reflects a deep commitment to protecting workers' rights, advancing fair labor practices, and ensuring every voice is heard at the table.

I bring a deep understanding of ONA's mission and values and a proven track record of action, accountability, and results.

As a nominee for the ONA Board of Directors, I am committed to strengthening members' representation, promoting equity, and ensuring the voices of nurses/ and health care workers are front and center in every decision that impacts our profession. At this critical time, we must champion strong public funded healthcare and bring our frontline perspective to the highest levels of government leadership.

We must highlight and champion the importance of fully funded, public healthcare – for the optimal health, wellbeing, and the future of Healthcare Workers, and for all Ontarians.

With deep experience, strong roots in advocacy, and a clear vision for the future, I am ready to continue making a meaningful impact – now at the ONA Board of Directors level.

Thank you for taking the time to read my article and reflect on the vision and values I've shared.

**In Solidarity,**

**Karen Boutilier Registered Nurse , BUP ONA local 8**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Boutilier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

**Signature of Nominee**