



Hospital Provincial Negotiating Team Candidate Article

Name: Kelly Gagnon

Nominee For: Region 2 Part-Time Representative

Dear Fellow ONA Members

I am writing to formally announce my candidacy for the position of **Part-Time Representative of Region Two** on our Provincial Hospital Negotiating Team. As we prepare for the upcoming round of negotiations, I am seeking your support and your vote to ensure that the voices of part-time nurses are heard loud and clear at the provincial level.

Having worked full time for 35 years and now part time-casual for the last 3 years, I understand the unique challenges we face- from scheduling flexibility and benefit equity to job security and fair compensation. I am committed to advocating for a contract that reflects the essential role part-time members play in our healthcare system.

If elected, my priorities will be to advocate for what our members have told us their top priorities are. Some of which have in the past been:

Fair Compensation: ensuring that wage increases and premiums reflect our dedication and the rising cost of living.

Scheduling Rights: advocating for more predictable schedules and better work-life balance for nurses.

Benefit equity: pushing for improved access to benefits and protections that recognize our contributions.

Nurse patient ratios: continuing the fight for safe nurse patient ratios leading to better outcomes.

In addition, I plan to be a strong representative who will act as **your** link between you the membership and the negotiating team to ensure your concerns are prioritized.

I have previously served as a unit representative, union committee member, Bargaining unit President (Queensway Carleton hospital) and now Local Coordinator of local 84 as well as the part time member in the last round of bargaining. I have developed the skills necessary to negotiate effectively and stand firm for our rights, I am ready to bring that same passion and tenacity to the provincial level.

We are not the ONA of yesterday. We are a stronger and more vocal union demanding that we be given what is right and fair. We cannot stand by any longer waiting for someone else to fix what is wrong in our healthcare system nor can we sit idly by and let the Ontario Hospital Association tell us what we deserve while the bosses line their pockets.

The decisions of arbitrator Price in the last round of bargaining were not what we had hoped for or **deserved** it did light a fire with in me and leave me with a sense of unfinished business. While you and I eagerly await the results of the ONA Charter challenge this spring, we cannot lose speed or determination. Our strength lies in our unity.

I would be honored to represent you and work tirelessly to secure the best possible contract for all ONA members. We must finish what we started in the last round of bargaining. Nurse patient ratios, safe working conditions and positive work life balance are just a few of the priorities that our members told us last round were important to them. Please complete the “**have a say** “ questionnaire when you receive it so that your voice can be heard and please attend any demand setting online meetings that you can. This is your contract and you should have a say.

I kindly ask for your vote during the upcoming election. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or specific concerns you would like to address.

In solidarity,

Kelly Gagnon RN

Signature of Nominee

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