

Grace Pierias

NOMINEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT REGION 4

To my fellow ONA siblings, troublemakers, hardcore activists and frontline friends,

My name is Grace Pierias and you may already know me as the current Region 4 Vice President, a role I have been privileged to serve in since last year's by-election.

It has been a year of unbelievable change, progress and victory. A year on a Board of Directors that has acted fearlessly in the face of hostile governments, Bad Bosses and employer austerity.

Working in this capacity has had a life-changing effect on me. Taking on this role is not a promotion but a complete career change. I have gone from a battle-hardened front-line Emergency Nurse to a conductor and a conduit for colleagues. My goal of funneling and amplifying the voice of the voiceless has been beyond transformative and addictive. Listening to what our members expect from their Union and then making it a reality in policy and in deed has turned me from a semi-jaded worker into someone who truly believes that we can achieve anything through high-participation acts of solidarity.

It was also a goal of mine this past year to better support Locals in Region 4 to do the work of our Union. This meant increasing Education funds, Political Action Monies and nurturing new Bargaining Unit Presidents. I am pleased to say that Region 4 filled most of our empty Leader positions in 2023-2024. Leaders and members in our Union are more empowered than ever and I have been hearing that ONAs new energy is palpable and felt in every corner of our province. Other Unions want to be us and employers fear us. The public respects us and patients trust us. These are advantages that we collectively utilize and never take for granted. This is what sets us apart and unites us.

In 2023 I watched and participated in ONA's rebirth through rebranding, helped fight and WIN historic Provincial Collective Agreements in the Hospital and Homes sectors side by side with members in Region 4 and around the Province. We gathered, marched in streets, called-out CEOs and rotten employers. We won and won and won some more.

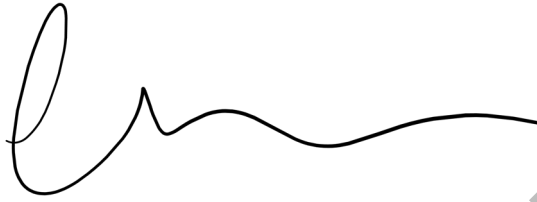
Now I am hooked. Hooked on the feeling that when we fight, we win. I am asking now for you to support me for another term on the Board of Directors as your Region 4 Vice President so that I can continue to fight for and with you. It is exciting to think that we are just getting started and now all cylinders are firing. My desire to keep the pedal to the metal cannot be overstated. We have gained thousands of new ONA members. We have other Sectors to fight for. We have so many new designations of Professionals in our ranks that need a voice. There are more emboldened politicians that need to look us in the eye and answer for the decisions they have made that have kept us down. We need to fight harder and show up in even bigger numbers to fight for Equity and Justice in

society at large and in our Bargaining Units and Locals. There is so much to do, and I am up for the job.

We will not be pushed around anymore. We will never stop. There is a new way of doing business where we band together and support each other. I continue to see our Union as a Professional Powerhouse and cannot wait to tap into the unleashed potential of "WE", the members of the Ontario Nurses' Association. Let's keep going, together.

Always got your back and solidarity, forever.

Grace Pierias, RN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Pierias', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

ACCLAIMED