

Jeanne Ernst

NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT

ONA Members,

Hi I am Jeanne Ernst. I am running for the position of Provincial President of the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA).

I graduated Nursing with a Diploma. I continued my education receiving my Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and now progressing into Master of Science in Nursing. I have advanced my competencies by receiving my Critical Care Certificate (honours), Peri-anesthesia Nursing Certificate (honours), Legal Nurse Consultant Certificate (honours), Labour Relations Certificate (honours), and I am recognized by the Ontario Court system as a qualified Nurse Expert Witness.

I have proudly nursed for over 33 years. My experience is vast. I have held many positions over these years. I have worked in Regional, and Rural Hospitals. I have worked in multiple setting. I have been a Professional Practice Coordinator, a Clinical Educator, a Clinical Resource Nurse, and a Staff Nurse. I am currently a Patient Care Lead.

The nursing profession, and advanced education has expanded my knowledge of the healthcare system, and healthcare processes. My experience and knowledge of Labour Relations, Nursing Leadership, and Legal Nurse Expert has equipped me with the competencies to succeed as your Provincial President Representative.

Members want an improved ONA. I am in this race to build a better ONA.

1. Building Stronger Representatives

The healthcare professional is the corner stone of the healthcare system. The Bargaining Unit are the trenches of healthcare, and the frontline healthcare workers are the soldiers. This is where ONA's work needs to be. Building up our voice in hospitals, nursing home, public health, home of the aged, and home care. I will strength the Bargaining Units, forcing change to improve work environments for us and others. I would like to increase transfer payments from ONA Central to the Locals to produce more Full-Time Bargaining Unit Presidents to stabilize bargaining units, bringing back bargaining rights to members, enforcing the collective agreement and increasing employer accountability. Strengthening our voice and increasing our presence improves your work life.

The government has continually eroded our professions. We are professionals who are highly educated and skilled. The problems we face in healthcare is because of lack of insight from the government, and not from lack of verbalization of members. The government has disrespected us to tasks. Ontario has the worst nurse:patient ratios in the country, and it's worsening with a growing nursing shortage. The Ontario government is not managing this growing concern. As healthcare professionals, we have taken that burden on by working harder and longer. We need to hold the employers accountable. Members should be paid for all worked hours and not feel intimidated by the employer for missed breaks or work beyond their shift. I want members to be empowered because they belong to a collective and be able to stand up for their employee right of overtime. We need to improve union presence in the work environment. It is essential in the Bargaining Units to protect and empower members. It holds employers accountable for poor work environments, and increased workloads.

Members dues money should go back towards the members. Members money that supports non-profit organizations should be filter back to the Locals to help support members in their bargaining units to improve members work environment and enforce the collective agreement.

2. ONA Accountability: More Transparency to the members.

The works of a Union is directed by the Members. Members are the Union. ONA needs to restore their relationship with members, building trust. Increasing transparency and accountability within ONA will improve relations with members. Improve Member and Bargaining Unit Representatives knowledge base, focusing education on Labour Relations, and Union Governance will arm Members and Bargaining Unit Representatives with the knowledge to successfully advocate, furthering trust in ONA. I believe Knowledge is Power and Wisdom Transforms.

Members direct their views and opinions to their Local, and their Bargaining Unit on voting of the ONA Constitutions, on fiscal budgets and Local policies. Local members need to be made aware of all activities of their Local via all means possible. In my opinion, there are Locals within ONA where the Local Executives develop policies and pass these policies without the membership knowledge or participation; these Locals cite members "don't come to meetings." It is the Local's responsibility to do their due diligence to communicate the Local's activities, as well as ONA Centrals activities.

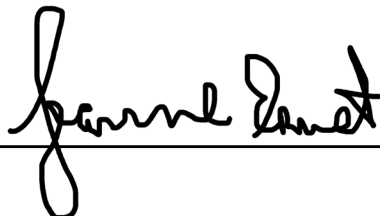
The ONA Constitution is a legal contract between ONA and its members. The ONA Constitution is to reflect the will of the members by all means possible. We need Local Coordinator accountability demonstrating members involvement in voting delegation on changes or amendments to the ONA Constitution.

3. Union Rights are Human Rights.

I have a strong opinion on Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equity (DEI). My parents immigrated to Canada. I am first generation Canadian. My family experienced oppression and discrimination. I personally fought through these experiences and still fight for those oppressed and discriminated by others. We, as healthcare professionals fight for the oppressed, the least fortunate, and the weak. We are their voice. Strengthening the Bargaining Units and Local, strengthens our voice for others.

The government has eroded our profession. We are forced to work harder and longer, focusing our energies on tasks and discrediting our professional knowledge. Members need leadership that can expertly argue and defend our position to value our contribution in healthcare. I am that person. I am your Change. I have fought the fight and will always keep fighting. Together We will stand and fight for Our Rights, Respect, and Worth. I have the knowledge, skill, and competencies needed to be in this fight.

I work the frontlines.
I walk the walk and talk the talk.
I give 110% in anything I do.
I passionately advocate for right.
My focus is on a better union for members.
Please vote, all members vote to have a say.
Vote for Jeanne Ernst as ONA Provincial President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeanne Ernst", written over a horizontal line.

(Signature of Candidate)