



Support Fairness for Public Health Nurses: Call the Board of Health!

Fifty public health nurses who provide care to 200,000 residents in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties are on strike fighting for a fair contract that recognizes their value, including better wages to keep up with the cost of living. The board of health has refused to provide anything like a fair offer. Help nurses get back to work caring for our community! Call members from the board of health, which includes elected officials from the City of Belleville, the City of Quinte West, Hastings County and Prince Edward County and tell them to negotiate a fair contract with public health nurses. Use the talking points below to help with your message.

Talking Points – Call to Board of Health Member

Hi, I'm [your name] and I am a constituent. Can I speak to [name of board of health member]? [If no, ask to leave a message or for them to take a message].

My name is [your name] and I am a constituent and resident of [county/city you reside in]. I am calling to express my strong support for Hastings & Prince Edward Public health nurses who are currently striking for a fair and respectful contract.

These nurses provide vital services to our community including infant feeding and well-baby care, immunizations, sexual health and harm reduction services, infectious disease monitoring, and so much more. These dedicated nurses worked throughout the pandemic to protect our community and provide services we rely on, especially with the shortage of primary care.

Despite this, the employer – the board of health you sit on – has refused to provide a fair offer that would end the strike. Nurses' wages have not kept up with rising inflation and the cost of living for years. With a global nursing shortage, nurses have never been more in demand. We need to provide our public health nurses with better wages so they can continue providing high-quality care in our community now and into the future.

As a resident, I am very concerned that Hastings & Prince Edward Public Health is refusing to value front-line care by paying nurses fairly. As a member of the Hastings and Prince Edward Board of Health I am calling on you to treat public health nurses with the respect they deserve and negotiate a fair deal. This includes better pay so the care our community needs is there when they need it.

As a voter, I expect my elected officials to do everything possible to end this. Will you [or name of board member] commit to getting back to the table and negotiating a fair contract with better wages for front-line nurses?

[Listen to response]

I hear what you are saying. But I want you to know that the most important thing to our community is ensuring we have the care we need and deserve.

You are accountable to the residents of our community. And we expect our public health unit to budget for fair wage increases to keep up with the cost of living and properly value the services that front-line nurses deliver. That means you need to deliver fair working conditions for these incredible nurses who have worked so hard to keep us safe and well.

Thank you for your time. I will be watching the outcome of this situation closely and you can expect to hear from me again soon.

[End call]

Contact Information: Hastings and Prince Edward Board of Health	
County of Hastings	
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City of Quinte West	
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