

D15 OSSTF



Special Edition

Ontario Nursing Association Strike Enters Third Week

With files from www.ona.org



Approximately 3,000 Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) health care professionals were forced on strike [January 30] when the employer refused to provide them with a small wage increase similar to that awarded to the province's 57,000 registered nurses working in hospitals, long-term care, and public health. The CCAC health care professionals had a two-year wage freeze in their last contract, which expired in March 2014. Their employers were offering them another one-year wage freeze in the new contract.

Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) members working in CCACs include Care Coordinators, who are registered nurses, nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, speech therapists, team assistants, and other highly qualified professionals. They assess their patients and write personalized care plans for them, arrange services in the home or the community, and provide direct care through Rapid Response nursing teams and palliative care teams. Care Coordinators are there for patients when they are discharged from hospital and arrange placements in long-term care facilities.

ONA is the union representing 60,000 registered nurses and allied health professionals, as well as more than 14,000 nursing student affiliates providing care in hospitals, long-term care, the community, public health, clinics, and industry.

How Does This Action Affect Our Communities and What Can We Do?

There are 43 CCAC nurses in Lindsay, 6 employed in Haliburton, and 19 in the Muskoka area. These workers have been braving frigid temperatures for 10 days picketing while the CEO of the North East CCAC, Richard Joly (whose 2013 salary was \$288 000, up 16% from 2012) vacationed in Mexico.



Moral Support—There are rotating picket lines within our communities and support on the lines is always welcome. Bring something warm and your OSSTF toque or scarf. Daily picket locations can be found at www.ona.org.

Financial Support—In accordance with our strike fund policy, adopted at the 2014 AGM, a donation of \$1360 has been forward to ONA to be distributed to the strike funds of the locals in our area. Branch presidents will be asking each of you to contribute \$3.00 to replenish this fund (one that might be accessed sadly enough in the near future by OPSEU workers in our area). All funds collected over \$3/member will be forwarded to the ONA's strike fund.

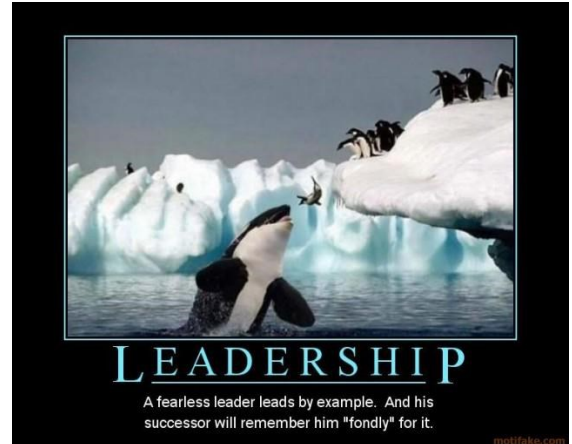
Political Support—Send a message of support for the Community Care Access Centre workers by completing the form at www.ona.org/political_action/supportccac.html

District 15 Events

District Leadership: February 27-28

There are a limited number of spots remaining for **District Leadership Training** taking place February 27-28 at Bayview Wildwood Resort near Orillia. The theme of the session is **Building Strong Branches**. Speakers include:

- ◆ **Suzette Clark, Director of Education Services, OSSTF**
Managing Conflict—This 90 minute session will focus on managing member-member conflict within branches.
- ◆ **Eddie Ste-Marie, Ontario Representative, Canadian Labour Congress**
Connecting with the Local Labour Community—How can OSSTF leverage its relationships with the CLC and the OFL as well as other local labour partners to our mutual benefit.
- ◆ **Amylee Patterson, OD/Park Secondary School Orillia (OSSTF District 17)**
Engaging Members to Create Active Branches—What is the role of grassroots members in shaping the Federation?



Training is scheduled from 5pm Friday until lunch on Saturday, with a social time to follow. Member delegates are fully funded and families are welcome (\$91 for adult guests and \$45 for kids under 12 —includes all meals). Group childcare will be provided from 7-10 pm Friday. This training would be useful for anyone wishing to understand the role of the branches in a strong Federation, and not just those in leadership roles. No further commitment required beyond the training. **Contact your Branch President or the District Office if interested in attending. Space is limited.**

Call for Nominations: District Awards



It's time to start thinking about nominees for our District Awards, which will be presented at the AGM on May 8, 2015. Awards are presented for Service to the Federation, Community Volunteerism, Environmental Leadership and contributions to the Status of Women. Details can be found at www.osstfd15.net—click on 'Awards' on the menu bar. Nominations are due at the District Office by April 10, 2015. Along with bragging rights comes a \$250 prize in each award category.

Applications for Provincial Standing Committees

The deadline to apply to OSSTF Provincial Standing Committees is March 1, 2015. Anyone interested should contact the District Office. There are several committees that require little or no experience but rather diverse skills and energy. These include: Communications/Political Action (CPAC), Human Rights, Status of Women, and Education Services. The time commitment is 6 meetings per year for a three year term. Members are also required for local CPAC and Human Rights Committees—contact Colin Matthew or Sharon Robbins (LCVI) respectively.

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Submissions for future newsletters
are welcome.

Forward to info@osstfd15.net