

# NEWSBULLETIN

Nursing Agencies / Equality / Gaza / Study on for-profit surgeries

## Statement against Discrimination

In recent months, there has been a concerning surge in incidents targeting the LGBTQ2S+ community. Regrettably, these incidents frequently manifest as acts of harassment and intimidation. The executive of CUPE/OCHU wishes to reaffirm our unwavering dedication to the principles of equality and our resolute determination to combat all forms of discrimination.

## Donation for Medical Relief in Gaza

OCHU-CUPE has donated \$5,000 to *Doctors Without Borders* for medical relief in Gaza. We are encouraging local unions and members to donate also.

Hospitals in Gaza have run out of many drugs and doctors are operating without anaesthetics. *Doctors Without Borders* just shipped 26 tonnes of medical supplies to provide humanitarian assistance.



*France Gélinas MPP, Erin Arris (ONA), Dave Verch (OCHU), and Wayne Gates MPP promoting NDP bill to limit nursing agencies*

## Hospitals refuse to bargain at a common table with CUPE, SEIU and Unifor. All signs point to concession demands

The Ontario Hospital Association has refused to bargain with CUPE, SEIU and Unifor at a common bargaining table. The 3 unions had agreed to bargain together.

The hospitals say they want to address particular language in the collective agreements of the unions.

We interpret this as code for concession demands.

Despite the position of the hospitals, reps from each union will be at each others bargaining tables (CUPE starts first, Nov. 20 ).

If concession demands are forthcoming, stand by for a request for a more militant than usual push back for a collective agreement without concessions and with real wage and other improvements.



*OCHU VPs Dave Verch and Mélanie Viau join Montreal hospital workers striking Nov. 6 as part of a 400,000 Québec Common Front. These workers have been offered 10% over 5 years by their provincial government.*



*CCPA researcher Andrew Longhurst who wrote a paper commissioned by OCHU-CUPE on the many problems with for-profit surgeries and diagnostic services. It has received extensive media coverage. Read at:*

[www.ochu.on.ca/ccpa-report](http://www.ochu.on.ca/ccpa-report)

### *Hospitals refuse to bargain RPN wages provincially*

The hospitals have also refused to bargain RPN wages at a provincial table.

An RPN conference of OCHU-CUPE, SEIU and Unifor is planned for early spring of 2024 to plan the mobilization of registered practical nurses. Notice will be sent to locals shortly.

Although the recent \$2.00 an hour wage adjustment and general wage increases brought RPN rates up by \$4.00 an hour, the recent ONA arbitration decision, with a compression of the wage grid, had the effect of maintaining the gap between RPNs and RNs.

Our goal in this round of bargaining is to bring RPNs to within 75% of the rate of the RNs.

The refusal of the hospitals to bargain this rate provincially should be an indication that this will be a fight every inch of the way.



*Delegates from Ontario hospital and long term care locals at the recent CUPE National Convention.*