

NEWSBULLETIN

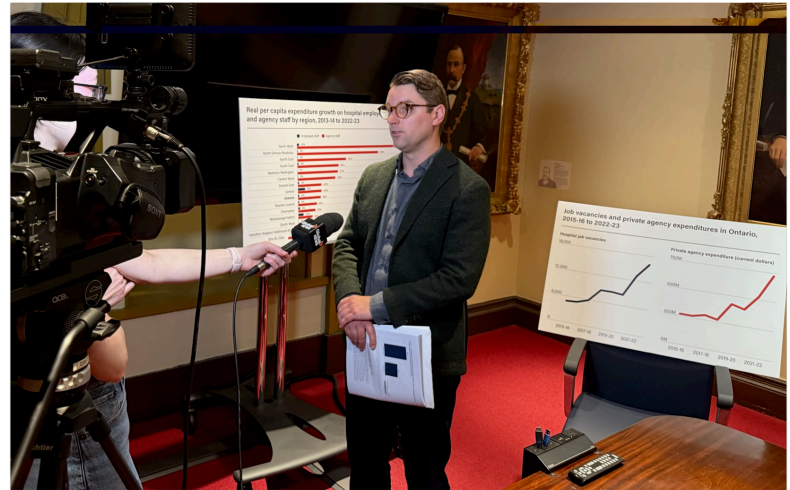
For-profit staffing agencies | Nurse-patient ratios | Leonora Foster, L. 2816

CUPE fights proposals to limit protests outside of hospitals, LTC in Toronto and Ottawa

City Councils in Toronto and Ottawa have introduced by-laws which would limit protests outside of institutions. Lawyers for the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions-CUPE sent letters to both city councils asking the by-laws to be withdrawn.

In Toronto the by-law was amended to remove limitations on the rights to picket outside hospitals and LTC homes. But those restrictions remain in the Ottawa draft by-law.

Police have the power to charge/arrest people who are violent or harassing or blocking access. Health care workers already have restricted rights to strike & to refuse unsafe work. Protesting government funding cuts is one of the few levers we have to apply pressure.



Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives researcher Andrew Longhurst speaks in Kingston May 16th about for-profit staffing agencies

Hospitals spent \$9.2 billion in 10 years on for-profit nursing & staffing agencies

According to a report released by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) on May 12, Ontario hospitals spent a combined \$9.2 billion on nursing and other staffing agencies over the 10-year period ending in 2023. The Ontario Council of Hospital Unions commissioned the study.

Hospitals paid up to 3x more per hour for nurses and psw's and other workers, but that generosity did not extend to their own staff in contract bargaining.

CCPA called on the Ford government to phase out for-profit nursing agencies in 3 years, as Quebec has done. Ontario's Minister of Health rejected that suggestion.



CUPE 2816 President Leonora Foster wins CUPE Racial Justice Award

CUPE 2816 President Leonora Foster has won CUPE Ontario's Racial Justice award in recognition of her locals 3-year campaign to bring the Hospital for Sick Children into the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP).

Sick Kids has been the only Ontario hospital that does not participate in HOOPP. Pensions for Sick Kids employees are much less on retirement than pensions for staff working at other hospitals.

The 3-year campaign involved rallies, lobbying, advertising and alliances with OPSEU and ONA and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Leonora recently was also awarded an activist of the year award at the convention of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions.

NDP reintroduces Bill calling for nurse-patient ratios in Ontario hospitals

NDP Health Care critic France Gelinas reintroduced a Bill May 14th to require Ontario hospitals to put in place nurse-patient ratios. These ratios are in effect in British Columbia and California, among other places.

The experience with nurse-patient ratios is that patient mortality declines, patient outcomes improve, nurse satisfaction climbs and nurse retention increases.

This is the way forward to address workloads on nursing units.



ONA president Erin Ariss, WE RPN CEO Diane Martin and OCHU RPN Committee Chair & Local 1974 president Angela Hodgson (left) at nurse-patient ratio Bill re-introduction