



May 7, 2019

During this nursing week and throughout the year the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU) is immensely proud of the commitment, skills and compassion of registered practical nurses (RPNs).

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has represented RPNs since its founding in 1963. In the last five decades the role of RPNs as part of the clinical team has expanded considerably.

OCHU and CUPE have consistently advocated for full RPN utilization in our health system. The result is that today, where RPNs are a vital part of the nursing team, hospitals benefit from utilization of RPNs' full scope of practice. However RPN full utilization by hospitals is still not consistent across Ontario. Ultimately it is patients who benefit most from the professional clinical care provided by RPNs.

This week as we celebrate the accomplishments of RPNs, OCHU/CUPE want to acknowledge the immense contribution you make in our public health system. Over the next few years, OCHU will continue to advocate and negotiate on your behalf safer working conditions and improved compensation as we work together with RPNs to promote full RPN utilization in hospitals province-wide.

In collaboration with Unifor, OCHU has produced a video celebrating the contribution of RPNs this Nursing Week. Visit www.ochu.on.ca to watch the video.

Again a heartfelt thank you for all you do to provide excellent patient care and to defend public health care. RPNs indeed keep the pulse of health care strong.

Handwritten signature of Michael Hurley in black ink.

Michael Hurley
President

Handwritten signature of Sharon Richer in blue ink.

Sharon Richer
Secretary-Treasurer

Handwritten signature of Louis Rodrigues in blue ink.

Louis Rodrigues
First Vice-President