

NURSES CALL FOR RESPECT

NURSES DEMAND RESPECT AND SOLUTIONS, NOT BAND-AIDS

The provincial government and health care employers must show respect for Alberta's nurses in bargaining for a new collective agreement

UNA members sent a strong message when they voted to reject a Mediator's Recommended Terms of Settlement in October. *Employers and the Alberta Government must be prepared to negotiate a settlement that treats nurses with respect.*

UNA and the employers have now returned to the bargaining table. *UNA will do its utmost to reach a contract satisfactory to its members.*

The shortage of nurses, general understaffing, and disrespect for nurses' work-life balance in Alberta has resulted in a burnout crisis in Alberta. Many nurses are leaving their profession or leaving the province because they are done tolerating unsafe working conditions for patients and themselves. *Nurses need more than a Band-Aid to be persuaded that progress is being made!*

The cost of living in Alberta has increased dramatically over several years, with this province experiencing the highest inflation rate in the nation. *Nurses want to be assured that when they go to work they have all the tools available to deliver the best patient care possible.*

Safe staffing saves lives! The government and employers need to acknowledge and understand that understaffing and underfunding have a negative impact on patient safety and health care accessibility for Albertans. *Employers must not try to pursue a bargaining strategy that makes things worse.*

The staffing crisis is causing rural communities to increasingly find themselves without an emergency department to turn to. *By far the most common reason for ERs having to temporarily shut down, many for 20 days or longer, was because staff were unavailable.*

UNA members are deeply concerned about the government's plan to break up public health care into multiple bureaucracies. *This plan sets the stage for privatization, higher costs and worse care.*

Albertans shouldn't have to deal with five or more agencies to get the health care they need. *More agencies, more rules and more confusion won't fix health care in Alberta.*

Creating more and more agencies won't make health care cheaper, safer or more effective. *Alberta's government needs to make health care simple to get, not more complicated.*

Instead of hiring more front-line nurses, the government is creating more bureaucratic agencies with duplicate administrative costs. *The government should be hiring more front-line nurses, not creating five or more new human resources departments.*

Breaking health care into multiple expensive bureaucracies will see specialty treatments concentrate in Alberta's big cities. *The UCP's health care 'reform' will make rural health care harder to find.*