



## The PRC Beat – Issue #1 – New Safe Staffing LoU

This is the inaugural edition of ***The PRC Beat*** – a quarterly digital newsletter for locals and members on all things related to [Professional Responsibility Concerns \(PRCs\)](#) and safe staffing. This update is all about the new Safe Staffing Letter of Understanding in United Nurses of Alberta's newly ratified Provincial Collective Agreement.

### NEW Safe Staffing LoU

UNA's new Provincial Collective Agreement includes a new Letter of Understanding, which explicitly states that the parties (Employers and UNA) *“are committed to providing safe staffing for all patients, residents, and clients.”*

To achieve this commitment, the parties have agreed to a new process to review and challenge baseline staffing levels, which can be initiated by a request of any Local or PRC Committee that falls under the Provincial Collective Agreement.

### Next Steps

We know Locals are eager to utilize this new process but before this can occur there are several steps UNA Provincial Office needs to undertake, including:

1. Identifying the standardized list of clinical and operational data that will form the basis of the evidence-based review of staffing that will be utilized in this process.
2. Developing joint guidelines with Employers to outline how this process should unfold, ensuring it is effective and that both parties have a shared understanding of expectations and responsibilities at each step.
3. Clarifying representation to the *Safe Staffing Task Force*, which is one of the steps that may be utilized by the parties in this new process.

This work is already underway, and we ask locals to remain patient as we lay the groundwork for a successful and sustainable process.

### Don't stop raising staffing concerns/questions and filling out PRCs

This new safe staffing process does not replace the existing PRC process. It's important to continue to [report Professional Responsibility Concerns](#) through UNA's app or website and that PRC Committees continue to meet, discuss, and resolve concerns. The concerns reported through PRC will likely be an important source of data that is utilized in this new safe staffing process to inform changes to baseline staffing.

### Stay tuned

We will share updates as soon as we can and please stay tuned for our next edition of ***The PRC Beat***. Please reach out to your PRC Advisor if you have any questions or concerns.



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Our mailing address is:

#700 - 11150 Jasper Avenue NW  
Edmonton Alberta T5K 0C7  
[nurses@una.ca](mailto:nurses@una.ca)

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