SPEAKING POINTS

for UNA Locals when speaking to local media

DONE ASKING

DAY OF ACTION #SupportNurses

Nurses deserve better. Patients deserve better. Albertans deserve better.

Nurses are DONE ASKING for the basic respect, safety and fairness. We are demanding that the government step up and support our exhausted and overwhelmed nurses and health care workers.

Nurses are feeling disrespected and expendable. We are feeling undervalued and we are burnt out after 18 months on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nurses have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic for 18 months. The government has been fighting us the entire time. What we want most is respect and real support from our employers and the government.

The first three waves of COVID-19 stretched Alberta's nurses thin. In the fourth wave we are exhausted and overwhelmed.

Surgeries are being cancelled and beds are closing because hospitals are short of nurses. This is because of the pandemic burnout and a long history of understaffing nurses.

Nurses are working more and more overtime shifts because the employer hasn't hired enough nurses. If the government wants nurses to work less overtime they should hire more nurses.

The roll backs are an insult and won't help Alberta recruit and keep nurses, which is what we need to keep hospital beds open.

Everyone in Alberta makes more money than in the rest of Canada, so do nurses. The average wage in Alberta is 15% higher that the rest of Canada. The average wage for Alberta nurses is 5.6% higher.

If asked about a strike

UNA is a democratic organization. Before any strike is called, both the majority of nurses and the majority of UNA locals must vote in favour of the strike.

