

January 2025

Triage Desk

Hello,

We're more than half way through January so it may seem like an odd time to say Happy New Year, but we are still going to. Happy New Year!

There's a lot we have planned for this year. In a matter of days, UNA locals across the province will be hosting a Day of Action to provide an opportunity for members to connect and show solidarity on the anniversary of the 1988 nurses' strike - the main focus of this edition of The Pulse.

Enjoy our walk down memory lane.

Nursing Notes



Photos from UNA's 1988 strike.

37 Years Later: The Legacy of the 1988 Nurses' Strike

In 1988, Alberta nurses made a bold move that would change the course of healthcare in the province forever.

Faced with low pay, understaffing, and increasingly difficult working conditions, they decided it was time to take a stand. With determination in their hearts, UNA members voted overwhelmingly to strike, demanding fair wages and better conditions for themselves and their patients.

The strike wasn't just about pay - it was about respect, fairness, and ensuring a safer, more effective healthcare system. For 18 days, nurses across Alberta held firm, showing the strength of their solidarity.



After weeks of tension, they succeeded in securing a historic settlement that not only improved their own working conditions but set a powerful precedent for workers' rights across the province.

Now, 25 years later, the impact of that pivotal moment still echoes through Alberta's healthcare system. The legacy of that strike continues to shape how we think about workers' rights, fairness, and the value of those who care for our health.

That's the history being honoured on January 25 with the 'Day of Action', a day to reflect on the past and look toward the future of healthcare in Alberta.

Join our nurses across the province as they commemorate this day. See the link below for a list of events happening near you.

Day of Action events near you.

Quote of the Month

"When we come together, we are a force greater than the sum of our parts."

Presumptive Coverage for Nurses

Nurses face unique challenges that can take a severe toll on their mental health. Yet, they are excluded from presumptive coverage for workplace psychological injuries, despite the constant emotional and physical strain they endure.

Learn why it's time to recognize the mental health risks that nurses face and advocate for essential protections to ensure they get the care and support they deserve.

Read More

Brain Food

Three lessons from the 1988 nurses' strike worth remembering

- **Massive Support and Solidarity:** 98% of UNA members supported the strike, and when fines piled up, unions across Alberta pitched in to help cover the costs. Talk about powerful solidarity in the labour movement!
- **Historic Impact on Health care:** The 18-day strike didn't just make noise - it led to big wins for nurses! Wages, working conditions, and staffing levels all got a major boost, totally reshaping Alberta's health care system and setting a new bar for workers' rights!
- **Political and Public Support:** The strike sparked a wave of support from politicians, community groups, and the public, spreading the word about the challenges healthcare workers face and it brought real, lasting changes to labour relations in Alberta!

What's Next?

UNA PROVINCIAL
NEGOTIATIONS
UPDATE #17



Latest update from UNA's Negotiations Committee.

UNA is still working to secure a new collective agreement for nurses across Alberta.

As part of the ongoing talks, the Labour Relations Board approved the Covenant Essential Service Staffing Plans in December. While there have been some delays, we expect the AHS staffing plans to be approved soon.

To help move things along, both UNA and employers have agreed to appoint David Jones as the Mediator for the Formal Mediation process.

Mediation sessions are scheduled for January 23, February 10, and February 11.

We are hopeful that these discussions will bring us closer to a fair agreement for nurses across the province.

Let's Connect

Stay Connected!

Be a part of our mission to advocate for and support Alberta's nurses by connecting with us on our social media platforms.



MEMBERS CAN DOWNLOAD THE UNA APP HERE.



iPhone



Android