



Thursday, September 4, 2008

The Honourable Tony Clement Minister of Health

Re: Is anyone listening to the Community Nurses? - Originally written Feb/08 and sent to federal and provincial government leaders and numerous nurse governing bodies, as well the Owen Sound Sun Times newspaper, via e-mail, regular and registered mail.

Since March 14/08, when we were profiled by the Owen Sound Sun Times, the politicians we contacted have thanked us for our community nurses letter with our concerns but no solutions have been forthcoming. All the government leaders we have contacted have thanked us for our correspondence but have offered no help or solutions. We in community still remain poorly paid and poorly compensated compared to our counterparts in the hospital and nursing home sectors.

In the 2007 Dec. issue of the Registered Nurse Journal, Judith Shamian, President and Chief Executive Officer of VON (Community Nursing Agency), stated that "in order to ensure home care staffing levels will be able to meet the growing demand, Ontario has to erase the wage gap that separates home care nurses from their colleagues in the hospital". She suggests following the lead of Nova Scotia, where there is no difference in salaries between the two sectors and there are few challenges with recruiting.

Recruitment and retention of nurses still remain huge issues for agencies within the community sector. Until government listens and addresses community nurses concerns, nurses will continue to burnout quickly and leave the community nursing profession they love.

Respectfully submitted,
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Representing the Grey-Bruce Community Nurses

CC: The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; Larry Miller, MP Bruce-Grey; Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey; John Tory, Leader of the PC Party and Leader of the Opposition; Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce; Doris Grinspun, Executive Director of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO); Dianne Martin, Executive Director of the Registered Practical Nurses' Association of Ontario (RPNAO); Ruth Schofield, Community Health Nurses' Initiative Group (CHNIG); Linda Haslom-Stroud, ONA; Vanessa Burkoski, The Nursing Secretariat; The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; Dale Goldhawk, Consumer Advocate; Scott Dunn, The Owen Sound Sun Times.