



## Ontario Nurses for the Environment

July  
2018

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#### **RNAO and ONEIG urge precautionary approach to licence renewal at Pickering nuclear plant.**

ONEIG and RNAO join forces

On June 29, ONEIG Policy and Political Action Officer Susan Munro joined RNAO Region 8 Board member Beatriz Jackson, and senior economist Kim Jarvi to present RNAO's recommendations at the hearings on the request by Ontario Power Generation to renew its licence to operate the Pickering nuclear power station. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission held hearings from June 25 to June 29 in Pickering on the licence application. RNAO urged a precautionary health-based approach first in ensuring the province is ready to immediately respond to a very large radiation emission along the scale of the Fukushima disaster in Japan. With over 7000 of the approximately 30,000 Ontario hospital beds in this highly populated area, along with over 9000 elderly in nursing homes and retirement homes in the area, evacuation efforts would be extremely challenging and would require a provincial approach. The age of the Pickering plant is of concern for safety reasons and this provides an opportunity to look at more environmentally sustainable energy sources. Full speaking notes can be found at <http://rnao.ca/policy/speaking-notes/Pickering-Nuclear-Generating-Station>



RNAO AGM  
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From the left Susan Munro, Beatriz Jackson, Kim Jarvi

## ONEIG Executive Elections

All ONEIG members received an email as nominations are open for the following positions:

- Policy and Political Action Executive Network Officer

**Voting will take place online so check your email.**

## RNAO AGM highlights.

Susan Munro (Policy and Political Action Officer) represented ONEIG at April RNAO AGM. The AGM is always a very exciting and busy time this year was no exception. The host this year was the Kingston Chapter. The event began with Dr. Helena Jaczek Ontario Minister of Health & Long-term Care followed by Andrea Horvath NDP. Kathleen Wynne (Liberals) spoke the following day unfortunately the Progressive Party Representative did not show. There were 12 resolutions this year, up 4 from last year. The decisions on the resolutions were:

1. Patient first treatment for Ontarians with Lyme Disease - passed with amendment to include "evidence based" treatment
2. Spiritual Dimensions - passed
3. Child and youth mental health - passed
4. Clinical Nurse Specialists - passed with amendment to include LTC specialists
5. Cost of Caring - very close vote requiring a count - passed
6. Psychotherapy and OHIP - much discussion, counted vote - passed
7. Health professionals and tort system - did not pass
8. Support for Northern and remote nursing orientation - passed
9. Workplace Violence - passed
10. Palliative Care - much discussion - passed
11. Wound Resources - passed
12. Nursing infrastructure and public-private partnerships - much discussion - passed
13. BScN Program Seven Generations - amended to advocate for as no agreement yet with Lakehead – passed.

# ONEIG AGM

## SAVE THE DATE

**August 21, 2018**

**7pm via Skype**

**Email your  
Skype address  
to  
[kpickering@rnao.ca](mailto:kpickering@rnao.ca)**



From left to right: Immediate RNAO Past President Carol Timmings, Premier Kathleen Wynnee, RNAO CEO Doris Grinspun, RNAO President Angela Cooper Brathwaite

## **How to reduce your use of single use plastics.**

The oceans and land are filling up with single use plastics harming marine and wildlife and polluting water sources. As nurses we can play reduce our waste both at work and at home. Due to infection control policies and concerns many of the products we use in healthcare are now disposable adding to the plastic waste problem however but there are many thing we can do on a daily basis at home and at work to reduce our waste.

- Take your own reuseable cup which I am sure many of you do but add to that your own straw and eating utensils and containers.
- Where possible let patients reuse their straws, cups and lids
- When getting supplies to do a dressing or a procedure think about what you will use and don't open packages until you have taken down the old dressing as what you need to use may well have changed. Bring supplies with you but return what you didn't use
- Make sure you recycle what you can at work- did you know IV bags, dressing trays and many single use items can be recycled in many facilities as they are made of plastic? Check with your facilities manager to see what can be recycled



Think as you go through your day 'how can I reduce the waste I am making and keep myself and my patients safe?' It is amazing all the small actions you can take in a day that over the course of a week or a year can make a big impact. We would love to hear any suggestions you have for reducing waste in your work place and will put them in the next newsletter.

### **Go Something To Share???**

We are looking for articles of interest for our newsletter so if you have an area you would like to share your knowledge about please us an article of connect for a chat and we will happily work with you to write the article. Or maybe you have a poem or photo you would like to share?



Trees in the early fall.

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