

April 15, 2020

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

OPEN LETTER FROM CUPE, SEIU, OPSEU AND UNIFOR

Dear Premier Ford,

On April 14th, your government announced a regulation to restrict employees in health care to work at just one institution during the Coronavirus crisis. We understand that the intention of this regulation is to limit the mobility of health care workers to contain the possible transmission of the virus but exempting agency staff from the application of this regulation will undermine this goal.

We ask you to kindly frame such a policy to ensure that this dedicated and courageous workforce is not penalized financially. It would be wrong to compound the burdens the workforce is now facing.

Of the workforce in healthcare, 85% are female, 50% are part-time and 35% head single parent families. Approximately, 40% of the workforce holds more than one job and these workers work as many hours as they can at each of their jobs to provide for their families. Working at multiple jobs is not preferred by the workforce. Full-time jobs are constantly being eliminated and this is how the work has been structured.

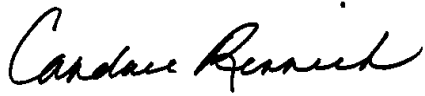
We respectfully ask that your government take the following actions to ensure that health care workers do not suffer financial losses during the Covid-19 crisis:

1. Employees with multiple health care jobs who are required to work at just one workplace during the Covid-19 outbreak must be provided with either the same level of employment at the employer that they choose as they were getting from their combined employment or receive replacement of the lost income.
2. Part-time employees, who make up one half of the health workforce have no paid sick leave and are asked to put themselves in the path of a highly contagious virus. Providing paid sick leave for part-time employees who become ill with Covid-19, are suspected of having Covid-19 or who are isolating or quarantined for Covid-19 is a critical support for a workforce of whom your government is asking so much.
3. Full-time employees who must isolate or quarantine for Covid-19 should also be provided with paid time to do that.

It is our hope that from this crisis will come the recognition that health care work is seriously undervalued. We hope that the days of people being forced to knit a living wage from multiple part-time jobs can be brought to an end.

This crisis of part-time work only repeats the problems we experienced during the SARS outbreak. We hope that everyone could have stable full-time employment with a single employer. In the meantime, your government can take a very important step by acknowledging and addressing the issues that we have brought to your attention.

All of which is respectfully submitted,



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE Ontario



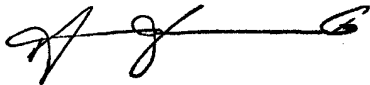
Sharleen Stewart
President, SEIU Healthcare



Warren (Smokey) Thomas
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Michael Hurley
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Andy Savela
Director of Health Care, UNIFOR

cc: The Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Helen Angus, Ontario Deputy Minister of Health
Matt Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association
Donna Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, OLTC
Lisa Levin, Chief Executive Officer, AdvantAge Ontario