



Registered Practical Nurses
Association of Ontario

A Message from our CEO

Dear WeRPN Member,

Like you, we are increasingly alarmed by the stories we're hearing from nurses about the shortage of personal protective equipment across the province. This is simply unacceptable. For nurses to deliver the life-saving care Ontarians need during this pandemic, every effort needs to be made to ensure that their health and safety is protected.

In cases where nurses are working with patients confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, it is essential that they have access to N-95 masks to be able to perform safe care. Nurses who find themselves in emergency situations need to have the confidence to know that they have the right equipment available to keep themselves safe. In other less critical situations, at a minimum, nurses need access to surgical masks and other associated droplet precaution equipment.

WeRPN is actively advocating on behalf of RPNs to make sure the government is taking steps to urgently address this issue.

For the past several weeks, we have been calling on government to take steps to increase access to PPE. Last week, we joined the Canadian Nurses' Association and Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario in releasing an [open letter](#) calling on the government to immediately deploy resources to make sure nurses and other frontline health professionals have the protection they need to deliver safe care. We also urged the government to mandate employers to err on the side of over-protection and require the use of airborne precautions.

This week will be continuing to escalate our action on this important issue through ongoing engagement with our government partners, by taking our message to employers and going to the media to demand that immediate steps are taken to produce more PPE.

Right now, we are at a turning point. We are experiencing the calm before the storm and we know that the road ahead is bound to get worse before it gets better. With nurses at the frontlines making sacrifices to keep the rest of us safe, we need to do everything in our power to make their safety a top priority.

We know this is important to all nurses and we will continue to keep you updated as we move ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" and last name "Martin" clearly distinguishable.

Dianne Martin
Chief Executive Officer, WeRPN

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