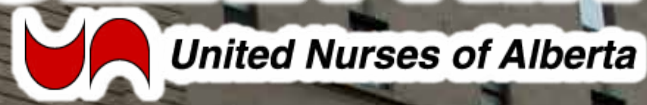




NEWSLETTER

Oct / Nov 2015



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UNA Marching in Calgary's 2015 Pride Parade





Message From The President

By Kevin Champagne
Local 115 President, United Nurses of Alberta

I am humbled to have this opportunity to thank all nurses of Local 115 for their individual contributions and sacrifices made over the past many months to keep the quality of health care delivered high.

As you know, we as nurses continue to face many obstacles and barriers in order to provide the care we are accustomed to delivering. Unfortunately, we will continue to face new pressures as the organization struggles to identify a clear direction for healthcare.

Nurses witnessed historical changes in the provincial political landscape this year. The implications of these changes are still unfolding and many of us are watching optimistically.

The broad question asked in many social circles over the past five months has been, “what does having an NDP government mean to the future of healthcare in Alberta?”

But before this question was answered, we were thrust back into the political arena with a federal election. The October 19, 2015 vote is an opportunity to shape our own collective futures to ensure we move forward in a positive direction. We should be taking the time to understand the relevant issues at hand and examine what our affiliates from across Canada are also doing.

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions has launched their own campaign, voteforcure.ca, which

sends a simple and clear message that Canadian nurses demand each federal political party clearly outline their strategies for safe staffing levels, a national pharmacare plan, seniors strategy, and defending publicly funded and delivered health care.

It is long past time for the federal government to get off the sidelines and become active in the shaping of Canada’s health care. We can no longer leave this responsibility solely on the shoulders of the provinces. Too much is at stake.



Friends of Medicare are campaigning to raise awareness on issues related to health here in Alberta and Canada. They are asking the parties to support the creation of a national pharmacare plan and the establishment of a national home care plan. Friends of Medicare are strong supporters of the principles enshrined in the Canada Health Act and are they are taking the parties to task to ensure the fundamentals of the Act are protected and further promoted.

We stand on the precipice of change, each voice matters in the shaping of our great country. As a local, we encourage everyone to exercise their individual right to vote. 🇨🇦

In Solidarity,

Kevin Champagne

Local 115 President

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Secretary: Wayne Stopa
Treasurer: Wanda Deadman

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CDLC Committee: Nicole Bajada • Ann-Marie Rowland • Sue Weatherhead
Communications: Wanda Deadman • Al Perreault
• Patrycja Vaid • Sheldon Vogt
Grievance Committee: Local 115 Executive • Martin d’Entremont • Ron DiPasquale
OH&S Committee: Local 115 Executive
PRC Committee: Kevin Champagne • Wanda Deadman • Laura Muenchrath • Sarah Paetschke • Wayne Stopa • Leona Wright
Portfolio Reps: Jeunine Champagne • Dorothy Clements • Wanda Deadman • Sandra McGonigal

Published by the United Nurses of Alberta Local 115 six times a year for our members

Editors

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Sheldon Vogt

Member Spotlight: Gina and Kat

By Patrycja Vaid
Local 115 Communications, United Nurses of Alberta



Q: Where do you work now, and what has been your nursing work journey?

G: We both currently work in the CVICU at Foothills Medical Centre. I started my career on the cardiac surgery unit, which is the step down unit from CVICU. I've primarily been in CVICU for my career, but I've also worked in emergency and PICU at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

K: I started my ICU career at the Children's Hospital, I really enjoyed it there and loved the friendly atmosphere. I'm not in the CVICU with Gina. I love intensive care, I can't imagine working in a different capacity.

Q: What do you like most about where you work?

G/K: Our coworkers are phenomenal. It's such a great team to work with. It also helps that we have an extremely supportive unit manager.

Q: Where did you meet?

G/K: We met working in the PICU at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Q: You recently got married, what was the most memorable part of your wedding?

G/K: Having all of our friends and family with us. It was wonderful to be able to share our home with so many people that we love. It turned out great! We couldn't have asked for a more amazing day.

Q: Looking back, if you could give your new nurse self some advice what would it be?

G: Patrycja is right, you should go work in the CVICU

K: I graduated when there was a hiring freeze, I took whatever job I could find. I would tell myself to hang in there, it always comes back around.

Q: Why is the union important to you?

G: The union makes me feel protected every time I go to work. I'm thankful that they have fought for us to have the working standards we do, and the best work quality of life possible.

K: I agree with Gina. The union

gives us a voice in determining what takes place within our employment field.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in Calgary?

G/K: We've worked hard to create a home that we love. We have a brood of loving pets. We love growing vegetables in our greenhouse. We recently started bee keeping- it's great to see them flying around the yard enjoying the plants, and drinking from our pond. We feel very lucky for the life we have. Our home is definitely the best place to be in Calgary.

Q: What is your favorite restaurant/place to shop/book/movie/TV show?

G/K: We love trying new restaurants. But, only after Gina has reviewed the menu. She's a bit of a picky eater. One of our favorites though is probably Ox and Angela. I wouldn't say we shop much to have a favorite place to go. We don't watch too many movies, because Kat often finds the endings disappointing.

Continued on Page 4

Member Spotlight: Gina and Kat

By Patrycja Vaid
Local 115 Communications, United Nurses of Alberta

Continued from Page 3

But, we're almost always up for a horror movie! We love watching shows like Survivor and The Amazing Race- we still have dreams of one day applying to be on the Amazing Race Canada.

Q: You marched in UNA's official first Pride Parade this year, why did you choose to participate?

G/K: One of our coworkers was kind enough to invite us to participate. Leading up to the parade, with all of the media coverage, we had recently been exposed to a number of negative and hateful comments on local news websites and social media. Not towards us specifically, but the LGBT community. It was very disheartening, and marching in the parade was even more meaningful because of the things we had been hearing. It was great to feel the love and support from the people that came out to see the parade as well as the other organizations participating in the parade.

Q: Why do you think it's important for the public to know nurses support the LGBT community?

G/K: Our patients come from all

walks of life and supporting the LGBTQ community is one of the ways that nurses show their support for our community and all of its



members.

As a nurse, you have to leave your judgments and feelings at the door. You don't have the luxury of choosing who should or shouldn't get your care.

Everyone is treated equally and with

the same respect despite your personal beliefs. That's the way it is and that's the way it should be.

Q: What kind of turn out would you like to see at the pride parade next year?

G/K: Of course, as it gets bigger, that only means more support for the LGBT community. So, it would be nice to see it just keep growing every year.

Q: What are you looking forward to in the next year?

G/K: We have a number of trips planned this year- we're calling them all honeymoons. We will be travelling more than we ever have, so we have a very exciting year ahead of us.


Q: Where do you see yourselves in 5 years?

G/K: Our long-term goal is to have land somewhere, so that when we retire, we can have a little hobby farm. We're hoping in the next 5 years, we'll have figured out where that is going to be, and perhaps will have purchased the land, and start working on another home that we will love as much as our home right now. 🍷

Spotlight on your Contract

Highlights from Collective Agreement


Article 18.06

- a. An Employee shall be so scheduled as to provide the Employee with days off on at least four (4) of the actual Named Holidays. Unless otherwise requested by the Employee, one (1) of these four (4) Named Holidays shall be either Christmas or New Year's Day.
- b. (i) An Employee granted Christmas Day off in accordance with Article 18.06(a) shall be scheduled such that the Employee shall have two (2) consecutive days where she or he will not be obliged to work (i.e. December 24 and 25; or December 25 and 26).
(ii) An Employee granted New Year's Day off in accordance with Article 18.06(a) shall be scheduled such that the Employee shall have two (2) consecutive days where she or he shall not be obliged to work (i.e. December 31 and January 1; or January 1 and 2).
- c. Where a Named Holiday falls on a Friday or a Monday, an Employee scheduled for days of rest on the adjacent weekend shall, where possible, be granted the Named Holiday off duty. 

Highlights from Joint Statements

Recommended Vacation Planning Guidelines

3. Developing the Planner

- a. The Vacation Planner (Planner) is to be a single document where each Employee is to make their vacation request for the Vacation Year.
- b. The Planner covers the entire vacation year including Christmas, New Years, spring break and summer. The Collective Agreement language does not contemplate a separate vacation planning process for the December holiday season.
- c. The vacation planning process is separate for each union group. However, when considering vacation requests, managers will consider skill mix issues. 

**UNA donates
\$10,000 to Red Cross
in support of Syrian refugees**



Welcome to our **NEW** Communication Committee Members

My name is Sheldon Vogt. I moved to Calgary three years ago from Cranbrook, B.C in pursuit of working at a premiere hospital. I am a Registered Nurse working in Acute Medicine at the Foothills Medical Center. I joined the Communication Committee of Local 115 because I am interested in learning more about the role and social activism of UNA within our Local 115 communities. I have experience serving on Education Councils and Student Unions and have a strong and genuine desire to help people. I'm excited at the opportunity to put my skills to use within the Local 115. 🍷



Hi, I'm Patrycja! I've been working at Foothills for almost 10 years. You may see me all around the hospital because I'm a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the Acute Pain Service. I'm looking forward to meeting more nurses from Foothills who want to learn more about the union or want to participate in various union activities.



Please stop me and say hello in the hallways and let me know if there's anything you feel our Local 115 communications team should be writing about. 🍷

Local 115 Positions Available



Vice President

1 position, 2 year Term

Secretary

1 position, 2 Year Term

Professional Responsibility Committee (PRC)

3 positions, 2 year terms

Nominations open October 15, 2015, and will close December 2, 2015 @ 1600.

Nomination forms will be available on First Class Members Conference starting October 15, 2015 or you may use the Nomination form on Page 7.



United Nurses of Alberta

NOMINATION FOR LOCAL EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

- POSITION:
- PRESIDENT
 - VICE-PRESIDENT
 - SECRETARY
 - TREASURER
 - SECRETARY/TREASURER
 - OTHER _____

(Nominations are open to anyone who is a Member in good standing of the applicable UNA Local)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NOMINEE:

NAME

ADDRESS

IF ELECTED, I AM WILLING TO SERVE:

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF TWO (2) MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL, WHO ARE IN GOOD STANDING, NOMINATING THE NOMINEE:

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

FEDERAL ELECTION

CANADA'S NURSES standing up for health care

WITH a federal election scheduled to take place on October 19 and the three major parties apparently locked in a three-way tie at press time, Canada's nurses have been standing up for health care in the election campaign.

Uniquely positioned to understand the challenges facing our country's health care system, and with many thoughts on how to improve and enhance health care, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions is urging the more than 200,000 members of affiliated unions like United Nurses of Alberta to think about which candidate in their electoral district is most likely to work to protect and improve public health care in Canada.

CFNU is drawing four issues in particular to nurses' attention:

- National Pharmacare
- A national safe seniors strategy
- Proper funding for public health care
- A national health human resources plan

In each case, CFNU is urging its members to vote for a candidate that recognizes the federal government has a role in these areas.

Canada needs a national prescription drug plan, commonly known as Pharmacare, to provide access to medically required drugs for all Canadians. Canada is the *only* developed country with no such national plan.



Canada's present system of prescribed drug coverage is inefficient, inequitable, wasteful and unsustainable for both individuals and governments. A national Pharmacare plan would save Canada more than \$11 billion a year – a sum that is bound to grow in the future – while providing better health care for huge numbers of Canadians.

We also need a national safe seniors strategy for Canada's fastest-growing demographic, which is more likely to be dependent on a robust public health care system. Right now, however, the country seems to be trending the wrong way, with access to services decreasing, the cost of prescription drugs soaring, and long-term care facilities facing critical staff shortages nationwide.

Canada needs publicly funded short-term and long-term care services, and those services must be properly funded. Polls consistently show that Canadians think a

seniors strategy should be a national election priority.

To health care professionals like nurses, it seems obvious that the entire health care system needs to be adequately funded. Yet the Conservative Government's decision to base health care funding on the rate of growth of Canada's Gross Domestic Product will in fact result in a substantial funding reductions.

Starting in 2017, all provinces and territories will begin to experience a substantial gap between the cost of health care services and the value of the transfer payments they receive. New research conducted for CFNU shows these cuts will result in a loss of \$43.5 billion over the decade from 2014 to 2024.

Canada's nurses are pressing for a federal commitment to funding 25 per cent of provincial health care budgets by 2025.

Finally, Canadians need a federal government that is prepared to create a health human resources plan for the entire country.

A sustainable health human resources plan would ensure there could be safe and appropriate staffing levels across the health care system. The benefits would include quality, safe patient care, lower nurse turnover and fewer medical errors.

Now is the time for a safe and sustainable health human resources plan – but, to get one, Canadians will need to elect a federal government prepared to take the necessary action. 🍷

Local 115 Summer 2015

Do you know what we did?

By Wanda Deadman
Local 115 Treasurer, United Nurses of Alberta

THE 2015 summer started with hundreds of hungry Calgarians enjoying lunch at UNA's Second Annual Calgary Stampede BBQ. We grilled up tons of burgers and hot dogs and have smoke rings on our hats to prove it!

Members proved to be thirsty individuals as our executive barista team, Kathleen Hamnett, Wayne Stopa, Kevin Champagne and Portfolio Representative Jeunine Champagne served up twice as many cups of coffee and snacks during our July 14th coffee cart.

As we rolled our coffee carts through the night, the summer saw us roll into the fall with great colours at Calgary's 25th Pride Parade. The weather was wet and cold, but the energy was warm and inviting.

Tens of thousands of amazing citizens cheered as UNA marched in solidarity with 160 parade groups. UNA has supported for many years, but this marked our first time marching in the parade.

Continuing hard work in the local office sees us heading into record numbers of Professional Responsibility Committee forms (PRC's) filed with over 300 to date. We continue to work diligently to improve patient safety. Thanks for all your dedication Local 115 Members! At your side, on your side. 🍷

In Solidarity,

Wanda Deadman

Local 115 Treasurer

local115exec@una.ab.ca

Thank you to the volunteers and staff for helping make this year's UNA Stampede BBQ a success!

Calgary Stampede UNA BBQ



Hundreds of Calgarians attended UNA's free BBQ during Stampede Week on July 7, 2015, outside UNA's Southern Alberta Regional Office.



UNA Labour Relations Office Martin d'Entremont, Local 1 President Diane Lantz, and Banff-Cochrane MLA Cam Westhead, RN.

Nurses Unite is what makes us Uniquely RN

By Patrycja Vaid
Local 115 Communications, United Nurses of Alberta

UNLESS you've been under a rock, you have probably heard of the hashtag #NursesUnite trending all over social media in response to *The View's* comments about Miss Colorado from the Miss America pageant unique talent... being an RN.

If you did not catch the famous Miss America beauty pageant, you may have seen clips posted all over your social media feeds as nurses were quick to show support and pride for fellow RN Kelley Johnson's (Miss Colorado) performance in the talent competition. She performed a monologue about her talent: being a nurse (and she was dressed respectably in uniform to boot). Showcasing this wonderful talent was something that was generally well received and Kelley was awarded a large scholarship. Unfortunately, a panel of 5 influential women on *The View* did not seem to agree and went on to make comments that offended nurses worldwide.

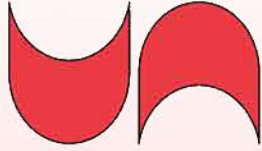


Instead of being offended, nurses may actually want to thank the ladies of *The View* for making Kelley Johnson and her talent a global sensation. The #NursesUnite hashtag has shown the world that nurses as a collective have a very strong voice. This phenomenon has caught fire; there have been many comical responses and a lot that were profound, but some have been borderline unethical.

All of this has been very timely with the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) launch of the "Uniquely RN" campaign that emphasizes unique RN contributions to healthcare (for more on Uniquely RN click here). CARNA CEO Mary-Anne Robinson was quoted saying "We hope we can find ways to build understanding in the health-care system and among the public of the unique contributions of Alberta's RNs," What better way to show Albertans what nurses really do, not just with their stethoscopes but in their daily work than to use this hashtag as an opportunity to help raise public awareness surrounding our profession. "We need to make the invisible visible," said CARNA Policy and Practice Director Carolyn Trumper (CARNA, 2015).

To send a positive image of Alberta nurses to the public, UNA Local 115 would like to challenge nurses to send us your pictures showing us your nursing talent along with what makes you #UniquelyRN. We will post your pictures and stories on our Facebook page. The post with the most likes at the end of October will win a prize be featured on our blog and newsletter. Let's show Alberta what it means when #NursesUnite by showing them what makes us #UniquelyRN! 🍷

Please
Post



United Nurses of Alberta



LOCAL 115

UNA

Notice of Monthly Meetings:

October 14 & November 10

16:00 - 18:00

FMC Auditorium

403-670-9960

local115exec@una.ab.ca

www.local115.wordpress.com



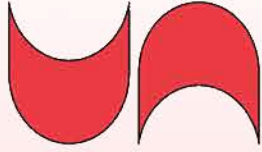
[UnitedNursesofAlbertaLocal115](#)



[@UNALocal115](#)



Please
Post



United Nurses of Alberta



LOCAL 115

UNA

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday December 9, 2015

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (MST)

Pre-Register: <http://bit.ly/unalocal115agm2015>

**Kensington Legion - The Royal Canadian Legion
North Calgary Branch No. 264**

1910 Kensington Road Northwest, Calgary, AB T2N 3R5

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www.local115.wordpress.com



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