

# AND NOW A WORD FROM

# YOUR

This February marks the 14th year that RNAO members will visit Queen's Park to connect with MPPs and cabinet ministers. This signature political event, which takes place Feb. 27, is one of several RNAO-led initiatives that give politicians a better sense of the work of an RN. Queen's Park on the Road and Take

Minister of Education **Liz Sandals**, Liberal MPP for Guelph, on the issues raised by RNs, and the consistent link to patients first and foremost...



“Certainly some of the issues have to do with nursing, but a lot are issues that have to do with social determinants of health. The fact that RNAO is looking at health from a community perspective, and is asking: ‘how can we improve the health of individuals through prevention?’...that says to me that, for RNAO...it’s not just how to make things better for me as a nurse, but...how do you have better health outcomes for my patients? I really appreciate that that’s traditionally been the focus of these visits.”

**Peter Tabuns**, NDP MPP for Toronto-Danforth, on accompanying an RN on a tour of Toronto's Red Door Family Shelter...

“There are a lot of families dealing with very difficult circumstances and having a health-care professional right in the building makes it a lot easier for someone who is trying to corral two or three kids and deal with the fact that they don't have a house anymore...It was impressive to me how many people's names she knew as we were going through the building, including kids' names. I thought: ‘Okay, here's someone who...has a very good and ongoing connection with the population she's serving.’”

**Joe Dickson**, Liberal MPP for Ajax-Pickering, on meeting with nurses in his constituency office...

“I have been honoured over the past seven plus years to attend a number of events during Nursing Week at my local hospital, as well as at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Services. Last February, I was honoured to host a group of representatives from RNAO at my constituency office as part of their Queen's Park on the Road tour. I have a great respect for our nurses and the services they provide our community. I am also blessed to be married to an RN for 49 years.”

**France Gélinas**, NDP MPP for Nickel Belt, on visiting the Sudbury jail...

“I know that prisoners do not deserve the Taj Mahal. I get that. But...why is it that they (nurses) work with examination tables from the 1920s? I can't believe that since 1920, we haven't been able to buy them an examination table that would make their work easier. I have traveled to Third World countries where the donations coming from Canada...(are) better than what those nurses were working with within the correctional system.”

**Ted Arnott**, Conservative MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, on Take Your MPP to Work...

“It gives me an opportunity to see first-hand the great work that our nurses are doing and to learn more about the health-care system. Of course, there are all kinds of advancements every year in terms of how we care for patients, and it's always an interesting experience. If I'm privileged to continue to serve the people of Ontario in the legislature, I would certainly want to continue to participate.”

# MPP



COMPILED BY KIMBERLEY KEARSEY

Your MPP to Work are two other events that generated opportunities in 2013 for 103 of the province's 107 MPPs to meet with members to learn more about the profession. We asked them to tell us why they feel it's important to hear what RNs have to say, and what they've learned about the profession...

**Sarah Campbell**, NDP MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, on the challenges of health care in rural and remote areas...



“It's very important to see what's happening on the ground in any community

because we don't have any real large urban centres, in my riding in particular. So it's important to see how health care is rolled out in each individual community...the challenges Sioux Lookout may experience in terms of home care or number of beds or number of positions will look drastically different from the challenges Dryden or Fort Frances or Kenora might experience. For me, it's important to see where the gaps in service are in each individual community.”

Conservative Deputy Leader **Christine Elliott**, MPP for Whitby-Oshawa, on the importance of wound care...

“They've really opened my eyes to an area I didn't know that much about. I tended to think of wounds as something that may have been post-surgical... but I understand now that wound care comprises a lot of home care services provided by nurses. I... learned a lot about the issues surrounding that and the importance of being vigilant with respect to proper wound care because of significant complications that can result if you're not vigilant.”

**Phil McNeely**, Liberal MPP for Ottawa-Orléans, on the take-home message he got after hearing RNAO President Rhonda Seidman-Carlson speak during Nursing Week...

“I really appreciated her speech at the breakfast meeting held annually... I really feel we can deal with a lot of our issues within the health system if we empower the nurses to act at the level they can act at. There are a lot of inefficiencies in the system because the nurse can't take action without getting a doctor's approval... and the system doesn't perform at its best level.”



**Queen's Park Day:**  
[www.RNAO.ca/QPDay2014](http://www.RNAO.ca/QPDay2014)

**Queen's Park on the Road:**  
[QPOR.RNAO.ca](http://QPOR.RNAO.ca)

**Take Your MPP to Work:**  
[www.RNAO.ca/TYMTW](http://www.RNAO.ca/TYMTW)

**Rick Nicholls**, Conservative MPP for Chatham-Kent-Essex, on his visit to a frantic ER on a Friday night...



“The care and empathy that I saw demonstrated was incredible. I had the chance to talk to two NPs and to observe them behind the scenes. It was amazing to see the interaction between the different health professionals. On this particular evening, there was an individual high on something and they had to restrain him. The nurses didn't fool around. I was fearful for them...because they never know what's coming in.”