



Nov. 11, 2022

Honourable Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
25 Grosvenor St., 18th floor  
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1Y6

**Re: Reducing financial barriers to CNO registration for internationally educated and retired nurses**

Dear Minister Jones,

RNAO has reviewed the [recent Ontario News Update](#) regarding the province's plans to expand the health-care workforce. We were pleased to see that you are moving forward with concrete plans to address the continuing health and human resource crisis. We are pleased to share that we have received many requests from internationally educated residing in Ontario and from retired nurses on how to apply for the \$1,500 of financial support promised.

Minister, as you and I have discussed, Ontario is in a deep and worsening nursing crisis and there is an urgent need to bring nurses – especially registered nurses – into the Ontario health system. Fortunately, there are many retired nurses available to re-enter the workforce, as well as a sizeable backlog of internationally educated nurses (IEN) eagerly awaiting the opportunity to practice nursing in our province. According to the [College of Nurses of Ontario \(CNO\)](#), there are now more than 10,000 active registration applicants living in Ontario “likely to be immediately available to the system upon registration,” including more than 6,000 IENs.

We urge you and the CNO to work quickly to implement the \$1,500 reimbursement. Incentives such as this initiative will help move this process along to provide the support and relief crucial to our exhausted nursing workforce.

Kindly advise when and how you expect to make this financial support available to retired nurses and IENs. RNAO is ready and eager to work with your team and the CNO to promote this initiative.

Many thanks and regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Grinspun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doris Grinspun, RN, BSc.N., MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), Dr(hc), DHC, FAAN, FCAN, O.ONT  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care  
Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister of Health  
Nancy Matthews, Deputy Minister of Long-Term Care  
Dr. Karima Velji, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice  
Silvie Crawford, Executive Director and CEO, College of Nurses of Ontario