



Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

December 19, 2019

Hon. Paul Calandra, House Leader
Legislative Bldg Rm 223, Queen's Park,
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Mr. Calandra,

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) urges you to expedite the passage of Bill 105, the *Mandatory Police Training Act, 2019* through the legislative process. As you will know, MPP Kusendova's bill prohibits a person from being appointed as, or acting as, a police officer or special constable unless the person has been successfully trained in the use and administration of naloxone, a life-saving medication that blocks the effects of opioids.

Ontario is in the midst of an escalating public health crisis. Earlier this month, the Public Health Agency of Canada [advised](#) that over 900 Ontarians - over five per day - died of accidental opioid overdose in the first six months of 2019. These deaths are preventable.

As CEO of RNAO, I was delighted to speak in support of Bill 105 at MPP Kusendova's press conference at Queen's Park on May 16, 2019. Nurses, like MPP Kusendova, are specially educated and trained to provide health care to Ontarians and improve the health of Ontario. Saving lives is everyone's job – including police officers and special constables. Bill 105 will save lives.

Bill 105 was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy in May, 2019. Many lives have been lost to accidental opioid overdose since then. RNAO urges you to move Bill 105 forward with urgency before many more are lost.

With warmest regards and very best wishes for the holiday season and for 2020,

Dr. Doris Grinspun RN, MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), Dr (hc), FAAN, O.ONT
Chief Executive Officer
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

C: Natalia Kusendova, MPP and Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy
Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Andrea Horwath, MPP
Gilles Bisson, ONDP House Leader
France Gelinias, ONDP Health Critic
John Fraser, MPP
Mike Schreiner, MPP