



May 8, 2020

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario  
158 Pearl St.  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 1L3

Dear Doris,

In time, when the COVID-19 crisis is behind us, one of the significant things that will stand out is the speed at which Ontario's health care sectors rallied collectively in support of the brave men and women who have been working on the frontlines of care and the residents/patients they serve. Collaborations, alliances and partnerships have been quickly knitted together to give voice to critical issues and constructive advice to the government during this incredibly challenging time.

For our Association, representing a provincial not-for-profit seniors' care sector that has been deeply and tragically ravaged by this pandemic, what will stand out is your early outreach to partner on deploying nursing students to work as PSWs in homes. This gesture came in the early days when very few were seeing the toll that this virus was going to take on our already overburdened long-term care sector. I am certain that this initiative was the impetus for some of the support that has since been directed to our sector.

As you know, within just days of launching our partnership, thousands of students were connected with hundreds of homes bringing desperately needed support and relief. We received numerous emails of thanks from member homes and it is hard to imagine how many of them would have managed in those first few weeks without your foresight to mobilize this willing and dedicated team. You then followed shortly with a second wave of support through the placement of RNs and nurse practitioners and created COVID-19 teams for hardest hit homes. It is not an overstatement to say that these efforts saved lives.

Doris, words cannot express our deep gratitude. On behalf of our Board, members, and most importantly the residents they care for, we thank you and your RNAO team for this partnership and for your longstanding and passionate advocacy on behalf of long-term care and the nursing staff who are invaluable to our sector.

Difficult days are still ahead, but we have demonstrated that by pulling together, we can make good things happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Levin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

**Lisa Levin**  
Chief Executive Officer