



Notice to Former Registrants

Request from Ontario for Pandemic Service Assistance

April 22, 2021

Dear former registrants,

Due to the current third wave of COVID-19, Ontario is facing a public health emergency that has elevated demand for intensive care and critical care health services beyond the maximum capacity of that province's health care system. The Government of Ontario has taken the extraordinary step of requesting emergency assistance from other Canadian provinces, including Manitoba, to assist in providing care for unprecedented numbers of patients with severe illnesses.

In its request to the Government of Manitoba, Ontario has estimated that it may experience a nursing staff shortfall of approximately 4,145 nurses in the hospital sector over the next 4 months. To address this shortfall, Ontario is seeking the assistance of 620 professionals to support Ontario hospitals. The health human resources identified as being urgently required in COVID hotspot areas include nurses (CU/Critical care/recovery/general), respiratory therapists, perfusionists and anaesthesia assistants.

The need for this assistance is expected to be greatest in southern Ontario, particularly in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and surrounding areas. Ontario anticipates a need for this critical support for a period of four months following the anticipated peak of the third wave, although this may vary depending on COVID-19 caseloads and ICU capacity levels in the province.

In response to Ontario's request, Manitoba has committed to providing assistance in the form of delivering equipment and supplies, including ventilators. Due to this province's own COVID-19 related needs, it is unable to redeploy existing staff to Ontario at this time. However, Manitoba is committed to contacting retired/former health care staff and encouraging those who are able to consider going to Ontario to provide direct support to Ontario's critical care capacity.

If you, as a former registrant, are willing and able to temporarily relocate to Ontario to provide assistance on an emergency basis, we invite you to contact the College to express your interest. Our staff will expedite any requests for information from the College of Nurses of Ontario to facilitate your registration application in Ontario based on your previous Manitoba registration. Ontario has advised that it will provide temporary relocation expenses for qualified individuals.

We recognize that for many reasons, not everyone is in a position to respond to Ontario's call for assistance. However, given the serious situation present in Ontario, we thank you for considering this request to assist in Manitoba's efforts to provide relief to our neighbouring province.

For more information, please contact:

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