



January 10, 2021

Attn: London Health Sciences Centre Members

Dear Local 100 ONA Members:

Re: LHSC CEO Paul Woods

I am writing to assure you that I feel the anger and outrage that each of you feel regarding the news of London Health Sciences Centre CEO, Paul Woods, and the news of his repeated international travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a member of Local 100 myself, I am angry and frustrated at the very different standards that appear to apply to ONA members, on the front lines day in and day out, and those that senior leaders seem to feel apply to them.

The CEO's recent email to front-line staff in which he made some very insensitive and aggravating remarks about front-line staff flouting public health rules, is more galling than ever in light of his trips for non-essential travel into the U.S.

The fact that the CEO most recently travelled to the U.S. while this hospital was struggling to contain multiple outbreaks only deepens the anger we feel.

As your provincial President, it is my hope that leaders will live what they preach.

At ONA, it is our expectation that our leaders will be held to the same high standard with which the rest of us are held. We had hoped the board of London Health Sciences Centre would take serious action in the case of Dr. Woods. To date, what we have seen is that the board will retain Dr. Woods, who has vowed he will no longer travel out of country until international travel is again safe.

To all of you in our Local who are exhausted, frustrated and angry, please know that I stand in solidarity with you and I share your emotions. I believe that as these scandals are revealed, it is the opportunity for a positive change going forward. It is time to expect all of our leaders to be held to the same high standards as the rest of us.

Please be safe and know that ONA is behind you.

Vicki McKenna, RN
President, Ontario Nurses' Association