

# Year in Review!

2020 was a year of change and adjustment as we entered the first wave of Covid-19. On March 11 the World Health Organization declares Covid-19 a pandemic March 17. A state of Emergency was called in Ontario and our world as we knew it changed.

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Frontlines nurses entered into many challenges and restrictive measures. The need and push for personal protective equipment was not received well by management. Our site is covering several articles in full or by link on healthy workplaces, appropriate PPE, mental health issues leading to major depressive disorders. We saw the serious results in Long term Care enfold with increasing deaths. Health care workers often resigned leaving the workplace increasing poorly staffed.

For a number of homes the military were called in to provide basic care. With so many issues and deaths an inquiry was struck into Long Term Care with input from RNAO, ONA, the Health Coalitions and other unions. The interim report was released Oct 23, 2020 with a final report April 30 2021. It is hopeful that the recommendations will be implemented.

The push in the fall was to generate a vaccine to overcome the virus. Canada at this time did not produce the vaccine. Workers slowly started to receive the vaccine in late 2020 from other sources.

Late in summer saw a reprieve with restrictions lessening. However we saw lockdown enforced in Ontario starting Dec 26 and with the rest of the provinces, and the world, with varying restrictions. That this has continued so long unlike SARS has been a challenge to the resilience of the nursing workforce and tested our beliefs in nursing. Such isolation took its toll.

What would Nightingale have commented on today as she had in her time placed such an importance on environment and disease prevention? She emphasized and advocated for appropriate ventilation, cleanliness, light and spacing of patients to assure adequate recovery.