Violence in the hospitals

Patients and family member attacks on staff increase

Poll paints picture of toxic workplace

68% of front line care staff physically assaulted in last 12 months. *42% sexually harassed or assaulted*

68% of staff with direct patient care contact report, in a poll commissioned by the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions/CUPE, that they were assaulted in the last 12 months.

68% PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED

42% SEXUALLY HARASSED/ ASSAULTED

83% VERBALLY ASSAULTED

20%

Hit more than 9x

44%

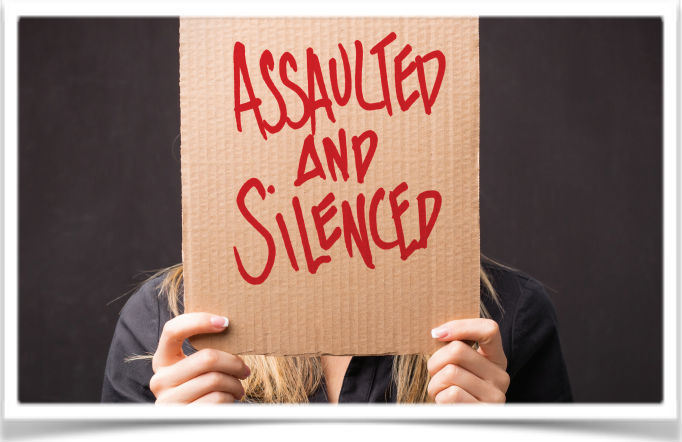
Fear reprisal if report

0%

Our goal

10 things which would make a difference to protect hospital staff from violence by members of the public:

1. Pass provincial legislation protecting staff who report and/or speak up about violence
2. Amend federal criminal code to make assault on a healthcare worker a more serious offence
3. Increase staffing levels in areas where staff are vulnerable to assault
4. Invest to upgrade alarm systems and infrastructure
5. Update flagging systems which identify patients with a history of violence
6. Improve reporting between institutions, police and corrections about patients with a history of violence



7. Support staff who are assaulted with income replacement and counselling.
8. Post signs in every patient care area indicating that violent behaviour will not be tolerated.
9. Have the hospitals agree that we share a goal of workplaces free of violence of any kind.
10. Request an investment from the provincial government to make these things happen.

BARGAINING BREAKS DOWN OVER THIS ISSUE

Bargaining broke off in September when the hospitals would not consider posting signs discouraging violence; would not agree that we share a goal of workplaces free of violence and would not request that the government make an investment to make hospitals safer from violent aggression.

CUPE is ramping up its campaign on violence in the coming months.

A workplace free of violence against staff is also a hospital that is much safer for patients and their families.