

It's Time to Stand Together

Niagara Region Day of Action

STOP THE HOSPITAL CUTS & HOSPITAL/
HOME CARE PRIVATIZATION
Friday May 22

We Can Win!

12 p.m.

Rally @ Minister

Jim Bradley's office

2 Secord Dr., Unit 2, St. Catharines

Bus/carpool pick-up times and locations

Port Colborne:

10:30 a.m., Food Basics, 124 Clarence Ave.

Welland:

11 a.m., Farmer's Market, 50 Market Sqr.

*You must register for a seat by calling

Sue Hotte 905-932-1646

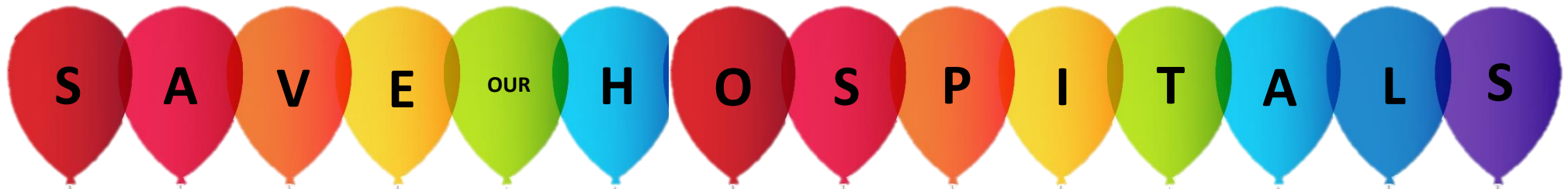
For more information: Sue Hotte 905-932-1646



It's Time to Take a Stand!

Niagara's local public
hospital & home care services
are at serious risk from
cuts & privatization.
Together, we can save our services.





Niagara's Hospital Services are Being Slashed:

Niagara has suffered among the very worst cuts of all Ontario. Cuts have included:

- At least 100 beds have been cut across the region. Patients wait on stretchers in hallways for hospital beds, ambulances are unable to offload, ERs are overflowing.
- Hundreds of nursing, health care professional and support staff positions have been cut along with the services they provide.
- Loss of all beds from the Niagara-on-the-Lake site.
- Closure of 2 ERs, all surgeries and acute care services in Port Colborne & Fort Erie.
- Closure of the birthing units in Welland & Niagara Falls.
- Far fewer beds than planned at the new St. Catharines hospital.
- Exorbitant parking fees & lack of available parking especially at the new St. Catharines hospital site.
- Five entire community hospitals are facing closure.

For four years in a row Ontario's government has frozen hospital budgets at a 0% increase. This means hospitals cannot keep-up with basic inflation and have to make real-dollar cuts. Add in population growth and aging, and it means they are falling farther behind every year. After four years of cuts, maternity units, whole wards and entire hospitals are under threat of closure.

There is Another Option

Every province in Canada funds their hospitals at a better rate than Ontario does. We are at the very bottom of the country in hospital funding.

Ontario's government has cut more hospital beds than any other province. We now have the fewest hospital beds left per person of anywhere in Canada.

Our government has also cut more nursing hours for patients than anywhere in Canada.

To see how we rank, go to:
<http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/health-system-facts-trends/funding/>

The fact that every other provincial government has chosen to fund their hospitals better and maintain more service shows that these are choices not necessities. There is another option.

By standing together, we've saved services and even entire hospitals

- ✓ We saved thoracic cancer surgery in Windsor.
- ✓ We stopped the closure of small & rural hospitals across Ontario.
- ✓ We halted the contracting-out of public hospital services to private, for-profit clinics.

It's time to stand together again. Take back our health care and save our services!

What do the cuts mean for patients?

- Surgeries cancelled. Longer wait times for services.
- Dangerous hospital overcrowding.
- Patients on stretchers in hallways waiting for beds.
- Emergency response vehicles waiting to offload patients at overcrowded ERs.
- Higher death rates.