

**It's Time to Stand Together**  
**Hamilton/Niagara Region**  
**Day of Action**

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

**We Can Win!**

**10 a.m. Rally @  
Ted McMeekin's office**

299 Dundas St. E., Waterdown

\*For ride/carpool to MPP McMeekin's office, meet by 9 a.m. at the Steelworkers' Hall, 350 Kenilworth Ave. N., Hamilton. For more information from Hamilton contact: Rolf Gerstenberger (289) 260-9547

Hamilton residents will then travel by car/bus caravan down to St. Catharines:

**12 p.m. Rally @  
Jim Bradley's office**

2 Secord Dr., Unit 2, St. Catharines

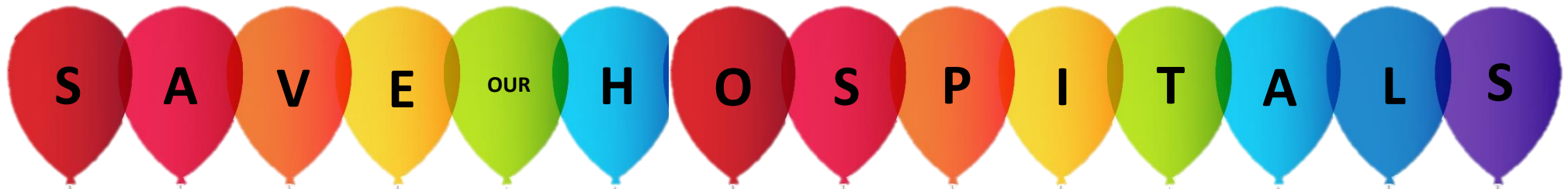
For more information: Sue Hotte 905-932-1646



**It's Time to  
Take a Stand!**

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





## Hamilton's Hospital Services are Being Slashed:

### Closed in recent years because of budget cuts

- Cancer lodge, fertility clinic, Breathworks Program for patients with lung disease & an entire emergency department closed to adults.
- Services across departments including an operating room, urgent care, outpatient physiotherapy, pharmacy, outpatient labs, social work hours.
- More than 150 nurses, health professionals & support staff, reducing staff available for patient care.
- Fees for patients have increased, like parking fees.

Now, after years of devastating cuts, more are planned.

### The proposed new cuts include

- 116,000 hours of hands-on nursing care per year.
- Privatization of food services at HHS.
- Privatization of transportation services for psychiatric patients at St. Joseph's Healthcare.
- A whopping \$25 million more in cuts at HHS & \$20 million in cuts at St. Joe's.

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 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.
- More incidents of "code zero" with one or no emergency response vehicles on the road because they are waiting to offload patients at overcrowded ERs.
- Higher death rates.