

Ontario Health Coalition

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Attn: Assignment Editor

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**Tory Health Platform A Recipe for Privatization:
Ontario Health Coalition Bracing for Confrontation in Ontario Election**

Toronto – John Tory’s Conservatives intend to hand our non-profit hospital and health services to for-profit companies, is the message in today’s release of the Conservative health platform.

“John Tory’s Conservatives have signaled that they intend to join the manipulative campaign led by the for-profit health industry to privatize the health system for their own profits. Clearly Tory intends to use the provincial election campaign to try to force more health privatization,” noted Natalie Mehra, coalition director.

“John Tory’s persistence in forcing health care privatization will lead to unfair and costly two-tier health care,” she added. “The for-profit companies he is promoting are already charging user-fees and promoting two-tier care as a way to maximize their revenue and increase their profits. Tory’s refusal to acknowledge the evidence that for-profit companies drive up costs and damage the public system is irresponsible.”

“The rigorous meta-analyses of the same for-profit hospital services Tory is promoting shows that they not only cost more, but they are also lead to a higher rate of patient deaths as the companies cut corners to make room for profit-taking. Already, the fastest growing costs in Ontario’s health system are produced by the private for-profit sector. Health privatization is not innovation, in fact, it is the same old Harris agenda of ideological politics and polarization.”

“We are prepared for a significant confrontation on the issue of health privatization through Ontario’s provincial election campaign because protecting public and non-profit health services is so important to the future sustainability and fairness of the public health system,” she concluded.

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