

Ontario Health Coalition

MEDIA
RELEASE

For immediate release
November 21, 2003

The Fight is On to Protect Our Hospitals From For-Profit Takeover: Ontario Health Coalition

The Health Coalition vowed to step up our campaign to keep our hospitals public in response to the government's announcements about the P3 hospitals in Brampton and Ottawa today.

"We are bitterly disappointed in both the process and the outcome of these deals as they are known so far", said Natalie Mehra Provincial Coordinator. "We are appalled at the process and secrecy surrounding the negotiations, which have not improved at all with the change in government. We are calling on the government to immediately lift the veil of secrecy that obscures these projects from public scrutiny and release the deals."

"The significant and unprecedented privatization and commercialization that appears to still characterize these deals disqualifies them from being considered public hospitals", she continued. "It appears that the government has turned from principle to public relations, tinkering a little so that they can claim to meet an election promise. These are still P3 hospitals and we will renew our fight to ensure full public ownership, control and operation of our hospital system."

The Ontario Health Coalition has coordinated a massive province-wide campaign to stop the P3 hospitals over the last two years. In the lead up to the election, Dalton McGuinty promised to bring the hospitals into the public system as quickly as possible. Recently, the hospitals have conducted major campaigns to pressure the government into signing the deals.

For more information: Natalie Mehra 416-441-2502.

Ontario Health Coalition
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 305
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8
www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca
phone: 416-441-2502
fax: 416-441- 4073
email:ohc@sympatico.ca