

- ✓ Hold a vote in your workplace.
  - Help phone volunteers.
- Volunteer at a voting station for an hour or two on May 28th.
  - Distribute leaflets like this one in your neighbourhood. coalition to volunteer,
- Go to www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca to get in touch with your local health Your help matters:

## Saturday May 28th

Communities' Need for Care & Restore Funding, Beds and Services to Meet Our

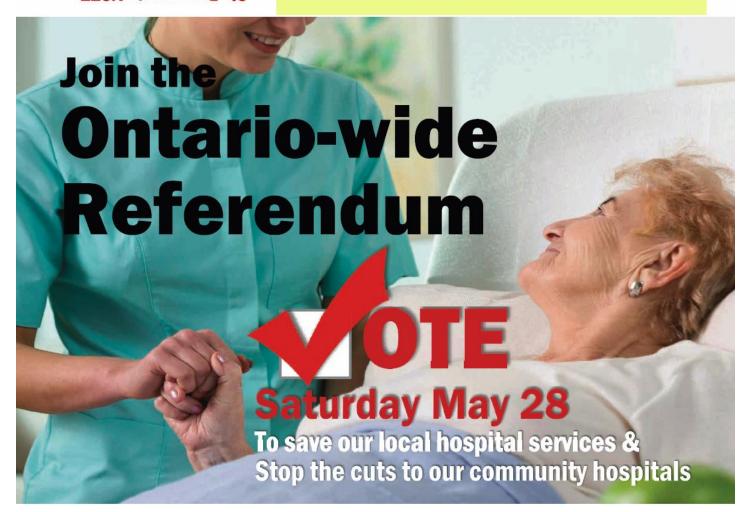
## **Local Hospitals** Vote to Stop the Cuts to Our

Join the referendum

- and understaffed, Hospitals are dangerously overcrowded
- hospitals. services are cut at their local public user fees at private clinics when
- hundreds or even thousands of dollars in Ratients are being forced to pay
  - Rural hospitals are being devastated.

  - sicker. up back in emergency departments early without needed care and ending
- Ratients are being discharged much too
- little funding and there are no beds. Surgeries are cancelled because of too
- "spaq ou
- stretchers in hallways because there are x Patients are waiting for days on

Six Reasons to VOTE



## Our hospitals are in crisis

All across Ontario hospital beds, emergency departments, birthing and surgical units, palliative care and even entire hospitals are being closed down. Hundreds of nurses have been cut, along with the thousands of hours of hands-on care that they provide for patients. Public laboratories, diagnostics, outpatient clinics are being shuttered and privatized. Vital housekeeping and support services have been cut to the bone and privatized.

It is beyond time that the cuts to our community hospitals stop. We are calling for Ontarians to join a province-wide vote to make Ontario's government listen to the concerns of our communities & restore our local hospital services.

## Did you know?

Ontario's government has cut our communities' hospital's real-dollar global budgets for eight years in a row; the longest period of cuts in our history.

Ontario ranks second last in Canada for public hospital funding. Our provincial government's budget for public hospitals puts us far below the average of the other provinces.

As a result of drastic bed cuts, Ontario has the fewest hospital beds of any province in Canada by far, and the most dangerously overcrowded hospitals. In fact, in the entire developed world, only Chile and Mexico have fewer hospital beds than Ontario.

Ontario has far less nursing care per patient than any province in Canada and the highest hospital readmissions, and the gap is growing wider.

The fact that every other province does better than Ontario by virtually all of these measures shows that the cuts are budget choices, not necessities. The choice to cut hospitals is driven by decision-makers at Queen's Park in Toronto who want to force hospitals to shrink the scope of services they provide. In their view, patients are supposed to travel from town to town to access care.

The cuts are also pushed by private health companies that want public hospitals cut so they can make more profits. These forprofit clinics charge OHIP and charge user fees of hundreds or even thousands of dollars to patients as well.

Statistics from the Canadian Institute for Health Information and the Organization for Economic & Development (DEDC). To see how Ontario compares http://www.ontarioheaithcoalition.ca/index.php/heaithsystem-facts-trends/funding/

Almost every hospital in every town in Ontario has lost services, beds and vital care staff. Here is just a sampling of the cuts:

Thunder Bay Hospital is in chronic gridlack, so avercrowded that patients are waiting for days on stretchers in hallways and common areas.

**Sault Ste. Marie** 59,000 hours/year of nursing and patient support cut impacting operating rooms, intensive care, ancalogy, surgery, hemodialysis, infection control & pediatrics. The hospital is in gridlock with unsafe levels of overcrowding.

St. Joseph Island Emergency department threatened with total closure.

North Bay More than 60 hospital beds and 360 front-line nurses, health professionals and vital patient support staff cut in the last 3 years. Mental health, medical and surgical services cut and dosed.

Kawartha Lakes Lindsay is facing cuts to surgical beds, labs & other departments. Minden Hospital threatened with total closure.

Scarborough Massive cuts to aperating rooms, emergency departments, staff and haspital beds. Toronto Western, Toronto General, Mount Sinai and CAMH cut more than 100 Registered Nurses.

**Niagara** Five entire community hospitals serving more than 200,000 people are slated for closure to be replaced by one hospital.

Midland Under threat of losing birthing; ICU, medical/surgical bed & staff cuts.

Ottawa Thousands of surgeries and diagnostic tests cut & privatized.

Quinte West Virtually all surgeries and half of the remaining acute care beds to be closed.

Northumberland Hills Facing cuts to emergency, medical/surgical units & labs.

Windsor 169 Registered Nursing positions cut. Every department facing cuts.

Petrolia endoscopies cut. Wallaceburg Facing the dosure of their Emergency Department.

**London** & **Hamilton** have had to cut more than \$100 million each, resulting in haspitals that are dangerously overcrowded and understaffed.