



# Join the Ontario-wide Referendum

**✓ VOTE**

**Saturday May 28**

**To save our local hospital services & Stop the cuts to our community hospitals**

## Six Reasons to VOTE

- × Patients are waiting for days on stretchers in hallways because there are no beds.
- × Surgeries are cancelled because of too little funding and there are no beds.
- × Patients are being discharged much too early without needed care and ending up back in emergency departments sicker.
- × Rural hospitals are being devastated.
- × Patients are being forced to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars in user fees at private clinics when services are cut at their local public hospitals.
- × Hospitals are dangerously overcrowded and understaffed.

**Join the referendum**

## Vote to Stop the Cuts to Our Local Hospitals

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

**Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Your help matters:

- ✓ Go to [www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca) to get in touch with your local health coalition to volunteer.
- ✓ Distribute leaflets like this one in your neighbourhood.
- ✓ Volunteer at a voting station for an hour or two on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Help phone volunteers.
- ✓ Hold a vote in your workplace.

**Ontario Health Coalition**  
Protecting public healthcare for all.

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# 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 for-profit 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 (OECD). To see how Ontario compares <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/health-system-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 gridlock, so overcrowded 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, oncology, 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 closed.

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

**Scarborough** Massive cuts to operating rooms, emergency departments, staff and hospital 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 closure of their Emergency Department.

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