

Ontario Health Coalition

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April 22, 2015

Attn: Assignment Editor

Media Advisory Ontario Budget Watch:

Health Coalition Representatives Available to Respond to Budget

(Toronto/Chatham-Kent/Cornwall/Niagara/North Bay/Peterborough/Sault Ste. Marie/Scarborough/Sudbury/Windsor) – Health Coalition representatives will be available to share our responses to and analysis of the Ontario Budget tomorrow after the budget is released. To view the Ontario Health Coalition's Pre-Budget Briefing, outlining where Ontario ranks relative to other provinces and jurisdictions on public service and health care revenues, expenditures and cuts please visit www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca.

While the announced plans for privatizing public assets and services such as Hydro One and liquor sales have captured the lion's share of public attention in the last few days, budget decisions regarding funding of public services will have very significant implications for the ownership and control of vital health care services, and will impact upcoming decisions regarding major cuts or closures of local hospitals and the privatization of chronic, long-term and home care.

The Ontario Health Coalition has been campaigning relentlessly to stop devastating cuts to entire hospital wards, closure of small and rural hospitals, and slashing of hospital beds and staff, as well as home care privatization.

The Ontario Health Coalition and Local Health Coalitions across Ontario will also hold budget watches or be available to give the local impacts of Ontario Budget 2015:

Toronto/Queen's Park: Ontario Health Coalition Executive Director Natalie Mehra will be available to respond to the provincial budget immediately after the budget lock up is released, Thursday April 23 at approximately 4 p.m. She will be at Queen's Park at the Main Legislative Building.

Chatham-Kent: Shirley Roebuck, Chatham-Kent Health Coalition, 519-677-4460.

Cornwall: Elaine MacDonald, Cornwall Health Coalition, 613-330-3117.

Niagara: Sue Hotte, Niagara Health Coalition, 905-932-1646.

North Bay: Sue McIntyre, North Bay Health Coalition, 705-493-9114. Please note: Starting at 4 p.m. Sue will be holding a Budget Watch at her home, located at 929 Lakeshore Dr. and can be reached there.

Peterborough: Roy Brady, Peterborough Health Coalition, 705-745-2446.

Sault Ste. Marie: Folgo DellaVedova, Sault Ste. Marie Health Coalition, 705-949-3008.

Scarborough: Kingsley Kwok, Scarborough Health Coalition, 416-835-3377. Please note: From 4 – 5:30 p.m. Kingsley will be joining the Budget Watch at Buddy HK Café, located at 2950 Birchmount Rd. and can be reached there.

Sudbury: Dot Klein, Sudbury Health Coalition, 705-566-9072.

Windsor: Ken Lewenza Jr., Windsor Health Coalition, 519-819-0830.

For more information: Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition executive director 416-441-2502 (office); Kim Johnston, Ontario Health Coalition campaign director 416-441-2502 (office); for interviews in Cantonese – Kingsley Kwok 416-835-3377; for interviews in French – Sue Hotte 905-932-1646.

Ontario Health Coalition

Pre-Budget Briefing

Where We Stand: Ontario's Ranking in Public Service and Health Care Revenues, Expenditures & Cuts

Ontario's government is making budget choices that cut and privatize public services and health care. These are choices, not necessities. Here's how we compare relative to other provinces and jurisdictions on some key measures.

The Notable Trends Are:

1. Ontario has dropped to last in Canada for funding all public services (Chart 1).
2. Ontario ranks last in Canada for total revenue per person (taxes and transfers) (Chart 2).
3. Ontario ranks at the bottom of the country for public health care funding per person compared to the other provinces (Chart 3).
4. Ontario ranks at the bottom of the country for public health care funding as a percentage of provincial GDP, compared to the other provinces (Chart 4).
5. Ontario health funding is shrinking as a proportion of the provincial budget, and has been for years (Chart 5).
6. Ontario ranks at the bottom of the country for public hospital funding per person, neck-and-neck with Quebec (Chart 6).
7. Ontario ranks 8th out of 10 provinces for hospital funding as a percentage of provincial GDP (Chart 7).
8. Ontario ranks last in Canada for number of hospital beds (Chart 8).
9. Ontario is fourth from the bottom of all OECD countries for number of hospital beds per 1000 population (Chart 9).
10. Ontario funds home care less per client than in 2002/2003 (Chart 10).

Chart 1: Ontario Last in Canada – Funding for All Public Services Compared to Other Provinces, 2011-2012

Source: Ontario Budget, Ministry of Finance.

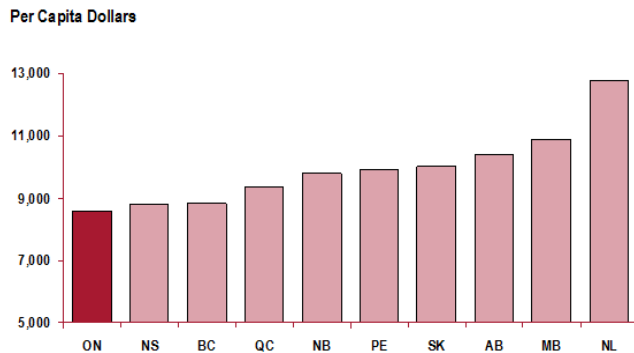


Chart 2: Ontario Last in Canada – Revenue (Taxes and Transfers)

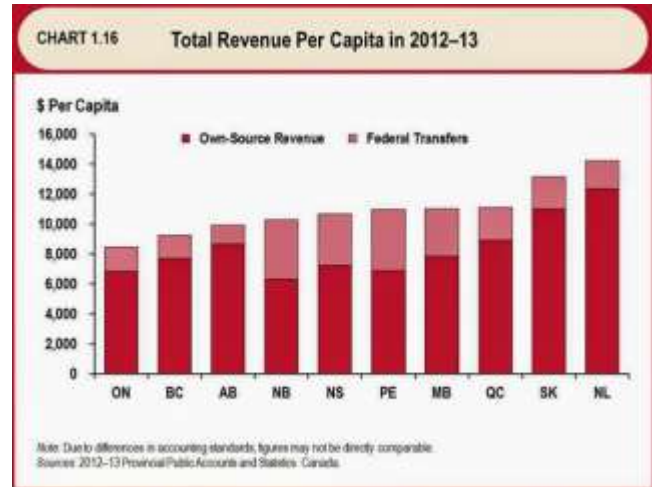


Chart 3: Ontario Ranks at Bottom of Country – Public Health Care Funding Per Person

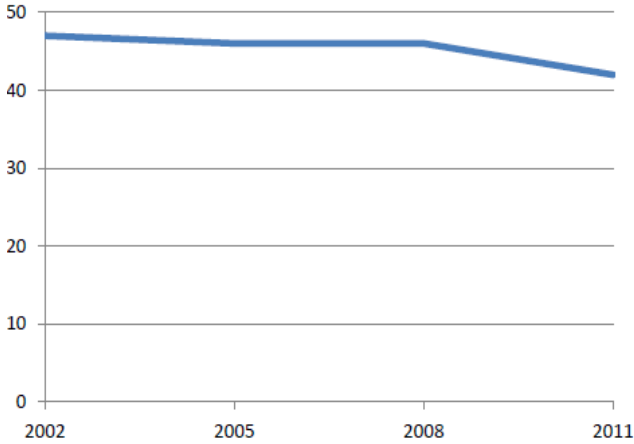
Ontario Public Health Care Spending Per Person 2012 Compared to Other Provinces (Current \$)	
Newfoundland	\$ 5,399
Saskatchewan	\$ 4,952
Alberta	\$ 4,896
Manitoba	\$ 4,816
PEI	\$ 4,663
Nova Scotia	\$ 4,463
New Brunswick	\$ 4,377
Ontario	\$ 3,963
British Columbia	\$ 3,937
Quebec	\$ 3,792
Average Other Provinces	\$ 4,588
Difference Between Ontario and Average of Other Provinces	- \$ 635 per person x 13,529,000 people = \$8.6 billion less

Chart 4: Ontario Ranks at Bottom of Country – Public Health Care Funding as Percentage of Provincial GDP

Ontario Public Health Care Spending As a Percentage of Provincial GDP Compared to Other Provinces 2012	
PEI	12.79 %
Nova Scotia	10.97 %
New Brunswick	10.63 %
Manitoba	10.14 %
Newfoundland	8.97 %
Quebec	8.77 %
British Columbia	8.16 %
Ontario	8.07 %
Saskatchewan	7.30 %
Alberta	6.21 %

Source (Chart 3, 4): all per capita spending is from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), National Health Expenditures Database, 2012. Percentages of GDP calculated using CIHI GDP figures from the National Health Expenditures Database, 2012.

**Chart 5:
Ontario Health Funding is Shrinking
as a Proportion of the Provincial
Budget**



Health care funding as a percentage of all Ontario program spending.

Source: Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ontario Budgets 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011.

**Chart 6:
Ontario Ranks at the Bottom of
Country – Public Hospital Funding Per
Person, Neck-and-Neck with Quebec**

Ontario Hospitals Public Funding Per Capita 2014 (in 2014 \$)	
Newfoundland	2,329.86
P.E.I.	1,938.93
Nova Scotia	1,892.15
New Brunswick	1,956.20
Quebec	1,424.15
Ontario	1,424.90
Manitoba	1,814.67
Saskatchewan	1,784.46
Alberta	2,208.77
British Columbia	1,652.42

Source: Canadian Institute for Health information National Expenditures Database 2014.

**Chart 7:
Ontario Ranks 8th of 10 Provinces –
Hospital Funding as Percentage of
Provincial GDP**

Ontario Hospitals Public Funding As % of Provincial GDP 2014	
Newfoundland	3.24
P.E.I.	4.88
Nova Scotia	4.38
New Brunswick	4.54
Quebec	3.03
Ontario	2.74
Manitoba	3.71
Saskatchewan	2.37
Alberta	2.60
British Columbia	3.24

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information National Health Expenditures Database 2014.

**Chart 8:
Ontario Last in Canada – Number of
Hospital Beds**

Hospital Beds Staffed and in Operation Per 1,000 Population by Province 2008-09 ¹	
PEI	4.3
Newfoundland	4.1
New Brunswick	4
Nova Scotia	3.8
Manitoba	3.7
Saskatchewan	3.4
Alberta	2.8
British Columbia	2.6
Ontario	2.5

Average hospital beds per 1,000 in Canadian provinces outside Ontario: 3.6

Ontario hospital beds per 1,000: 2.5

Difference: Ontario has 1.1 fewer hospital beds for each 1,000 people.

Aggregate shortfall: 1.1/1000 x 13 million (population) = **14,300**

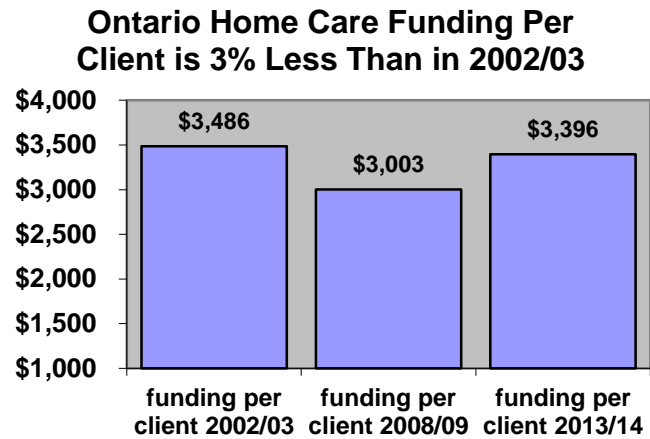
¹ Note: CIHI data does on hospital beds does not include Quebec. Sources: CIHI Hospital Beds Staffed and in Operation 2008-09, StatsCan population demographics 2008.

**Chart 9:
Ontario Fourth from Bottom in OECD
– Number of Hospital Beds Per 1000
Population**

OECD Total hospital beds per 1,000 population 2008 ²	
Japan	13.8
Germany	8.2
Korea	7.8
Austria	7.7
Czech Republic	7.2
Hungary	7.1
France	6.9
Belgium	6.6
Poland	6.6
Slovak Republic	6.6
Finland	6.5
Estonia	5.7
Luxembourg	5.6
Switzerland	5.2
Ireland	4.9
Greece	4.8
Slovenia	4.8
Netherlands	4.7
Australia	3.8
Italy	3.8
Denmark	3.6
Israel	3.6
Norway	3.5
Portugal	3.4
United Kingdom	3.4
Canada	3.3
Spain	3.2
United States	3.1
Sweden	2.8
Ontario	2.5
Turkey	2.4
Chile	2.3
Mexico	1.7

OECD average hospital beds per 1,000: 5.2
 Canada hospital beds per 1,000: 3.3
Ontario hospital beds per 1,000: 2.5

**Chart 10:
Ontario Funding Home Care Less Per Client Than in 2002/03**



² Source: OECD Health Data 2011.