



**VOTE**

# Public Health Care

In the Sault Ste. Marie provincial by-election we can all make a difference. Let's insist on concrete commitments to improve access to our public hospital services, long-term and home care. Let's tell the candidates that public health care matters. **Let's tell them we're voting on it.**

## 4 Commitments to Improve Public Health Care

### 1 Stop cuts & overcrowding, restore our hospital services

Our hospital has suffered a decade of real-dollar cuts from the provincial government. Hospital beds have been closed down, health professionals' services privatized, and staff cut. Across Ontario hospital care has dropped to the bottom of the country by every measure: we have the fewest hospital beds and worst overcrowding, the fewest nurses, and second-worst funding of any province in Canada. The Ontario government must forge a plan to restore hospital services so they can meet our communities' needs.

### 2 Build a public non-profit home care system and ensure funding goes to the front lines

Despite increases in funding, thousands of Ontarians cannot access needed home personal support, nursing and health professionals' care. From the frail elderly to people discharged from hospitals after a stroke or surgery, the care just isn't there. Home care must be reformed so funding goes to front-line care, not duplication and profit-taking. Ontario needs a public non-profit home care system that puts funding to care.

### 3 Stop privatization & 2-tier user charges for patients

The Canada Health Act requires that all Canadians receive needed health care, paid through our tax system based on medical need, not wealth. But as hospital services are cut, private clinics are moving in. They are charging patients – often seniors on fixed incomes – user fees amounting to hundreds or thousands of dollars for needed health care in violation of the Canada Health Act. They are undermining single-tier health care. **Diagnostics and surgeries should be provided in our public hospitals. Our money is better spent on care not profit-taking.**

**These 4 commitments would make a world of difference for Ontario patients.**

**Please ask your candidates to make these commitments. Join us to vote health care!**

### 4 Improve seniors' care

More than 20,000 people are on wait lists for long-term care. There are not enough nurses and personal support workers to provide for the residents with Alzheimer's and high care needs. Home care is only available to those with the very highest ranking of needs, and it is inadequate to meet the needs of patients and families. The government must build a plan to meet the chronic care and long-term care needs of Ontarians.

## We Can Make a Difference

- ✓ Take these leaflets and drop them off around your neighbourhood, in your community centre or seniors' centre, at the gym or in a local store.
- ✓ Put up the poster in your window.
- ✓ Put up a lawn sign in a visible location on your property.
- ✓ Volunteer to help the Sault Area Health Coalition.
- ✓ Vote public health care!

For more information  
contact Jeff 705-255-0751

