



VOTE

Public Health Care

In the provincial election we can all make a difference. Let's insist on concrete commitments to improve access to our public hospital services & long-term care. **Let's tell them we're going to vote on it.**

3 Commitments to Improve Public Health Care

1 Stop cuts & overcrowding, restore our hospital services

Our hospitals have been downsized for 40+ years almost without a break. Tens of thousands of hospital beds have been closed down, health professionals' services privatized, and staff cut in the most draconian cuts in the country. 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.

It is time to rebuild. We should not be hearing words like "lean" or "efficiencies" or "restructuring". These are code words for cuts. The Ontario government must restore funding and direct it to reopening closed hospital wards and operating rooms, restoring closed and privatized services and planning to rebuild public hospital capacity to meet our communities' needs.

2 Improve seniors' care

Ontario government records show 34,000 people are on wait lists for long-term care. There are not enough nurses and personal support workers in nursing homes 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 open 30,000 public and non-profit long-term care home beds as soon as possible to fix the waiting lists and set a guaranteed 4-hour average minimum of care per resident per day to feed, bathe, and take care of the residents' health and personal needs. Home care and long-term care should be publicly operated systems that are run on a non-profit basis where funding goes to care, not profit-taking and where the services are operated in the public interest.

3 Stop privatization & 2-tier user charges for patients

The Canada Health Act protects us all by requiring that all Canadians receive needed health care, paid through our tax system based on medical need, and we cannot be charged user fees when we are sick. 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. Private for-profit companies are also moving in and building our public hospitals as privatized P3 (private public partnerships) controlled and operated by multinational for-profit consortia for 30 years or more. These outrageously costly schemes are shovelling out public health care dollars off to private profit.

Doctor's services, diagnostics and surgeries should be provided in our public hospitals. Our money is better spent on care not profit-taking.

We Can Make a Difference

These 3 commitments would make a world of for Ontario patients.

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

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Ontario
Health Coalition
Protecting public healthcare for all.