

- ✓ **We can protect Medicare for all and uphold our values of compassion and fairness by building a comprehensive plan to meet the chronic care and longer term care needs of seniors and other Canadians, not cut care for those who need it.**
Canadians pay for drugs now. A public drug program would better control too-high drug prices and put money towards safer, needed medications.
Carleton University researchers calculate that a public drug program would save more than \$10 billion compared to what we pay now. A public drug program would better control too-high drug prices and put money towards safer, needed medications.
- ✓ **We can create a national drug coverage program and put savings into better safer care, not delay any longer.**
The federal government must uphold the Canada Health Act, take decisive action to stop 2-tier charges on patients and stop private clinics that undermine single-tier health care. Our money is better spent on care not profiteering.
- ✓ **We can build up capacity in our public health care system to provide for the needs of Canadians, not privatize & dismantle it.**
The federal government must meet with the council of the provinces; renew the Canada Health Accord, and commit to improving the federal government's share of health funding, not cut & download it onto the provinces.
- ✓ **Canadians need national leadership on health care, not ultimatums.**
Please tell candidates you are voting for health care. Ask them if they will make these commitments:

Four Commitments to Protect and Improve Health Care for All Canadians

Please tell candidates you are voting for health care. Ask them if they will make these commitments:



VOTE HEALTH CARE

In this fall's Canadian federal election, please tell our politicians that public health care matters. Tell them we're voting on it.



Canadians share a deeply held belief that access to health care should not be based on how rich we are, but on our medical need.

Our health care system is based on values of equity and compassion. We believe in public health care that works in the public interest, putting human caring before greed and profit.

We take care of one another. It's one of the things that makes Canada different from the United States where high-cost private insurance companies control politicians and access to needed care remains a major hardship.

Most of us believe that our government will not purposely destroy public health care. But privatization is a serious threat and it would dismantle health care for all if we don't stop it.

Serious changes are underway that put health care at risk



Patients are being billed thousands of dollars in private clinics for MRIs and cataract surgeries. But we have already paid in our taxes for this care and should receive it without extra charges. The federal government has taken no action to protect Canadians from unlawful 2-tier charges and privatization. They aren't upholding the Canada Health Act.


In fact, Harper has attached health funding to economic growth, so in bad times when Canadians need care more, funding levels will be curtailed. The government has paid for billions in tax cuts for corporations by downloading health costs to the provinces and by cutting Old Age Security.



The federal government has refused to set national standards to improve health care – like lowering hospital wait times or improving home care. They cut funding for veterans' and refugees' health. They won't participate in any discussion on creating a national drug plan. They closed down the Health Quality Council of Canada and walked away from the table on a plan to build a national home and community care system for Canadians.

KEY ISSUE BRIEF

\$36 Billion Cut to Health Care

 Stephen Harper refused to meet with provincial governments from across Canada to renew the Canada Health Accord and, with it, the funding formula for health care. Instead, his government announced a plan - without consultation - that will cut \$36 billion from health care funding to the provinces over the next 10 years compared to funding levels if the Accord was renewed. Under Harper's plan, Ontario is the hardest hit of all the provinces; we lose \$8 billion.

\$36 billion could fund
the building of 100 new hospitals.

\$36 billion could pay for
a year of nursing home care for 783,000 seniors.

\$36 billion could have bought
144 million MRI scans for patients in need.

If it's not stopped, the federal cut to the health care funding formula means that provincial governments must cut health care services or raise taxes to make up the "fiscal gap" caused by the federal cuts. Source: Parliamentary Budget Office 2012

The NDP & Liberals have committed to meeting with the provinces to renegotiate the Health Accord and funding formula. The NDP has committed to expanding drug coverage for Canadians while the Liberals promise to address the issue. The Green Party promises single-tier public health care and a national drug program for all. All promise a plan to improve seniors' care.

See www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca for a full review & details.