

# ACTION Update



15 Gervais Drive, Suite 604, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8 tel: 416-441-2502 [www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca)



Please see reverse to order leaflet & postcard for distribution.

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

## Across Ontario More Than 1,000 Participate in Regional Days of Action to Stop Hospital Cuts & Hospital and Home Care Privatization

Ontario's provincial government has shackled the province's public hospitals into the fourth year of a 0% funding freeze. That means that hospital budgets have remained stagnant year after year, despite mounting pressures of inflation, and a growing & aging population. The gap between the funding that hospitals receive and the costs of care is getting bigger every year, forcing hospitals to make cuts. Across the board, hospitals have seen a 10% cut, in real dollar terms (inflation-adjusted dollar) and these cuts continue to get worse.

From April until June, the Ontario Health Coalition organized Regional Days of Action across Ontario, calling on the provincial government to stop the hospital cuts and the privatization of hospital and home care services. Here is an update:

**Northeastern Ontario** At the first of five major regional rallies held across Ontario, 150 people including representatives from citizens' action groups in New Liskeard, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins joined forces to draw attention to the disproportionate hospital cuts across NE Ontario. The rally



was held at the office of local MPP Glenn Thibeault. Participants signed more than a hundred red balloons with messages in support of their local public hospitals. The balloons were hand-delivered directly to Mr. Thibeault.



## Your Membership Matters

It is your support that enables the Ontario Health Coalition to continue the work outlined here, to protect and improve public health care in Ontario. Along with thousands of you, we've worked our hardest in communities all across the province to stop hospital cuts and closures and the privatization of hospital and home care services. Help us to continue this work by becoming a member today. Please visit:

<http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/donate-now/>

## Update: Rock-In Tour for Improved Long-Term Care



We would like to send a great big thank you to everyone that supported the 2015 Giant Rocking Chair Tour to improve care levels in Long-Term

Care. The chair, a ten-foot tall prop made of wood, was a hit as volunteers Peter Boyle, Don Arkell and Tom Carrothers held media events in 24 communities across Ontario.

The media coverage across the province was incredible with newspapers, radio stations and TV news reporters covering the events province-wide. In addition, we also had several local MPPs come out in some of the towns to show their support for the campaign. For photos and coverage: <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/giant-rocking-chair-tour-2015/>

The OHC is calling on the provincial government to set a minimum care staffing standard of 4 hours of hands on care per resident per day. The push for improved care standards in long-term care facilities across Ontario has been made clear and we will continue to advocate for this goal.

**Niagara/Hamilton Region** Hundreds were in attendance at rallies held at the constituency offices of Hamilton and Niagara region Cabinet Ministers Ted McMeekin and Jim Bradley. Currently in Niagara, five local community hospitals are under threat of complete closure – this after years of cuts that have shed many vital services from Niagara’s local public hospitals. To-date, there has been no analysis of population need in the region, even as plans for hospital closures move full steam ahead. Public support has been mounting in an effort to stop the cuts and closures and save our services.



**Ottawa Region** On a pouring Friday afternoon, hundreds converged for a lively hour-and-a-half rally outside Cabinet Minister and local MPP Bob Chiarelli’s office. Ottawa is facing among the worst hospital cuts of anywhere in the province, and is the new ground zero for cuts. The rally was a major show of strength as concerned citizens, patients and hospital staff of all stripes came out to show their support.



**Southwestern Ontario** More than 200 people came out to highly visual rally at Cabinet Minister Deb Matthews’ constituency office in London, sending a strong message to the provincial government to stop cutting our local hospitals & privatizing hospital/home care services. Props included a massive alarm clock (pictured here) to raise the alarm!



# Federal Election 2015

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.

In this fall’s federal election, please tell our politicians that public health care matters. Help spread the word, by distributing election materials in your area.



## Help protect & improve public health care for all!

To hand out election materials in your neighbourhood, at local seniors’ centres, workplaces, and throughout your community please fill in the order form here, then cut and return by mail to the OHC.

Due to new election rules, there are limits on advocacy organizations’ work. Materials must be distributed BEFORE the writ is dropped (that is when the election is formally called, likely in early September).

**Postcard Voter Pledge**  
Order Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_



**Information Leaflet**  
Order Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_



**I can help distribute election materials, please send them to:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

You can find an order form online at: [www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca)

# 8th Annual Organic Garlic Fundraiser!

By ordering garlic with us you are supporting the vital work we do to improve the public health care system. You are also supporting local farmers by purchasing fresh, Ontario-grown garlic.

To place an order:  
Please help to distribute this form in your office and among your friends. You can mail or hand deliver the form and money to the OHC at address listed below.

There is free delivery within the GTA to those that submit an order with at least **3 item**.

Everything else is shipped by mail at a cost of \$3 per unit ordered.

If you order from Ottawa, Oshawa, Kingston or London you can avoid shipping fees if you attend the September Health Coalition meeting as you can pick up your garlic there.



**#1: \$10.00**  
**Gourmet & Heirloom**  
**Mixed Garlic Bag**



**#2: \$15.00**  
**Hanging Bundle**  
**Music Garlic**

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town & Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item:

Garlic Bag (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Garlic Bundle (#) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping: \$3 per unit ordered = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please check one box:

☐ I will be picking-up my garlic order

☐ Please deliver my garlic order (at least 3 orders for GTA delivery).

You can now pay by PayPal (credit card) online at the OHC store:  
<http://store.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/collections/all>

Cheques payable to: Ontario Health Coalition  
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 604  
Toronto ON, M3C 1Y8

**\*New Deadline:** We must receive your order by **August 7**. Orders will only be processed, once they have been paid for.



# Health Action Assembly & Conference



Our annual information sharing, strategy meeting

## ASSEMBLY

**Saturday, November 21**

**10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Church of the Holy Trinity**

10 Trinity Sqr. (tucked in beside Eaton

Centre off of James St.) Toronto

**\$0 - \$40 sliding scale per day**

(Please pay what you are able. Your fees help subsidize coalition members from across Ontario to attend.)

## CONFERENCE

**Sunday, November 22**

**9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Metro Hall**

Rooms 308/309, 55 John St., Toronto

**\$0 - \$40 sliding scale per day**

(Please pay what you are able. Your fees help subsidize coalition members from across Ontario to attend.)

## TOPICS

- Information-sharing and strategizing to save local health care services.
- What now? Discussion on new federal government and our next steps.
- Ontario is paying off massive corporate tax cuts by cutting funding for public services and health care, and by privatizing public assets and services. Discuss what we can do to stop the redistribution of needed health care funding to the wealthy and corporations.
- Can we build a vision for progressive health care reform that will supersede the cuts and privatization agenda? Ideas include: democratic hospital governance, use of local suppliers, public home care, controls on executive salaries, improved primary care, better pharmaceutical management, better promotion and prevention.

## Hotel Rooms

We have reserved a block of hotel rooms at the Bond Place Hotel, 65 Dundas St. E. (across from the Eaton Centre downtown). It is a unionized hotel. To get the reduced rate of \$98 per night, call before November 1, 416-362-6061 or 1-800-268-9390 and cite “Ontario Health Coalition rate” or email [reservations@bondplace.ca](mailto:reservations@bondplace.ca).

For local coalitions, if you do not have the ability to get funding locally to attend, we will subsidize up to two people from each local coalition to attend. If needed, we will pay for gas, train or flight, depending on which is most economical and we will cover the cost of accommodation in Toronto. Please contact Natalie Mehra to apply for subsidy. (The Ontario Health Coalition will only cover costs that have been expressly approved by Natalie prior to being incurred).

## Registration Form

Please fill in this form and return with cheque to the Ontario Health Coalition at 15 Gervais Drive, Suite 604, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8 tel: 416-441-2502 email: [ohc@sympatico.ca](mailto:ohc@sympatico.ca) (online at [www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca))

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Names of Attendees (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY ASSEMBLY

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (registration fee \$0 - \$40 sliding scale) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal A

### SUNDAY CONFERENCE

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (registration fee \$0 - \$40 sliding scale) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal B

**Subtotal A \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Subtotal B \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Total** These fees help cover the cost of the venue, speakers and bringing in local health coalitions from across Ontario. It's a pay what you can sliding scale from \$0 - \$40 per day.

For office use only: \_\_\_ confirmation sent \_\_\_ pkg sent \_\_\_ registered \_\_\_ db \_\_\_ els \_\_\_ lists

# Ontario Health Coalition 2015 Award Nominations

## The Daniel Benedict Award

Daniel Benedict, a distinguished former Ontario Health Coalition board member who passed away in 2003 is remembered for his many contributions. The Daniel Benedict Award is presented annually to the **persons who - working with one of the local health coalitions - best embodies Dan Benedict's spirit of extraordinary community activism and commitment to the protection and extension of Public Medicare.**

## The Ethel Meade Award

Ethel Meade, PhD (English Literature) was a long-standing community activist on health care issues and held numerous leadership positions. The Ethel Meade Award was created upon Ethel's retirement from the Ontario Health Coalition Board of Directors. The award is to be given to the **person whose research and/or policy work has made a crucial contribution to the public health care system and the fight to protect it.**

## The Orville Thacker Award

In memory of dedicated community advocate and activist, Orville Thacker. This award recognizes a **person or organization whose voluntary contribution shows an exceptional commitment and contribution to improving quality public health care for the elderly in Ontario.**

To nominate a candidate, please visit our website at: [www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca).

### Your Support Makes All the Difference

Your support is what enables the Ontario Health Coalition to do all that we do to protect and improve health care under the principles of the Canada Health Act in Ontario's communities. Some of our collective successes:

- We won in Leamington! Working with the local group we stopped birthing services from being moved more than an hour away.
- We've halted the closure of rural emergency departments and stopped for-profit hospitals from moving into Ontario.
- We are working our hardest to improve home care and create a public, non-profit system and we know we are having an impact.

We hate to have to ask, but please be assured, your memberships, donations, and participation in our garlic fundraiser and other initiatives make all the difference.

*Thank you so much!*

## Join our Medicare Supporters Monthly Giving Plan or Become an Annual Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: H) \_\_\_\_\_ W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Monthly Giving Plan:

Under this plan, a set amount will be withdrawn directly from your account each month.

YES! I will give per month (circle one):

\$5 \$10 \$20 \$30 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Every (circle one) 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of the month,  
Starting \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

### Please attach a blank voided cheque.

I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with the PAD Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

This Authorization may be cancelled at any time upon notice being provided by me either in writing or orally, with proper authorization to verify my identity within 10 days before the next PAD is to be issued. I acknowledge that I can obtain a sample cancellation form or further information on my right to cancel this Agreement from the Ontario Health Coalition or by visiting [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Account Holder Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joint signature only if required for this account Date

### Annual Membership Fees 2015:

**Individual Members:** \$20

**Organizations:**

Under 100 members, \$25

Over 100 members, rate set at \$0.20/member  
e.g. 500 members = \$100;

5000 members = \$1,000.

**Additional donation (circle one):**

\$20 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership fee rate enclosed is

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque out to:

Ontario Health Coalition

15 Gervais Drive, Suite 604

Toronto ON, M3C 1Y8

**NEW!** You can now pay by PayPal (online) at the OHC store:

<http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/index.php/donate-now/>