

# Save our public health care

- ✓ Email/write your local MPP & tell them to stop the privatization of our hospitals
- ✓ Help hand out leaflets in your area
- ✓ Join your local health coalition

## Patient beware: information you need before going to a private clinic for cataract surgery

- **OHIP covers all medically needed surgeries & diagnostics.** Under the Canada Health Act & Ontario law, cataract surgery is covered by your health card without user fees. It is unlawful to charge you for cataract surgery & medically-needed eye measurement tests for that surgery. It is unlawful to sell queue-jumping for the wealthy.
- **Laser cataract surgery is covered by OHIP.** Cataract surgery is covered by OHIP regardless of how the surgery is performed.
- **Patients cannot be told they need to pay for medically unnecessary extra measurement tests & lenses in order to get cataract surgery.** There is no “standard” lens. The individual lens that you need for cataract surgery is covered by OHIP.
- **Private clinics tell patients that wait lists are longer than they really are to convince them to pay extra.** 81% of Ontarians get surgery within target wait times. You can get the surgery in public hospitals. For the most urgent patients the wait time is now 2 months. For those without urgent need that is 4 months. See your local wait times here: [www.ontariohealth.ca/system/reporting/wait-times](http://www.ontariohealth.ca/system/reporting/wait-times).
- **If you are being charged unlawfully, please contact us.**



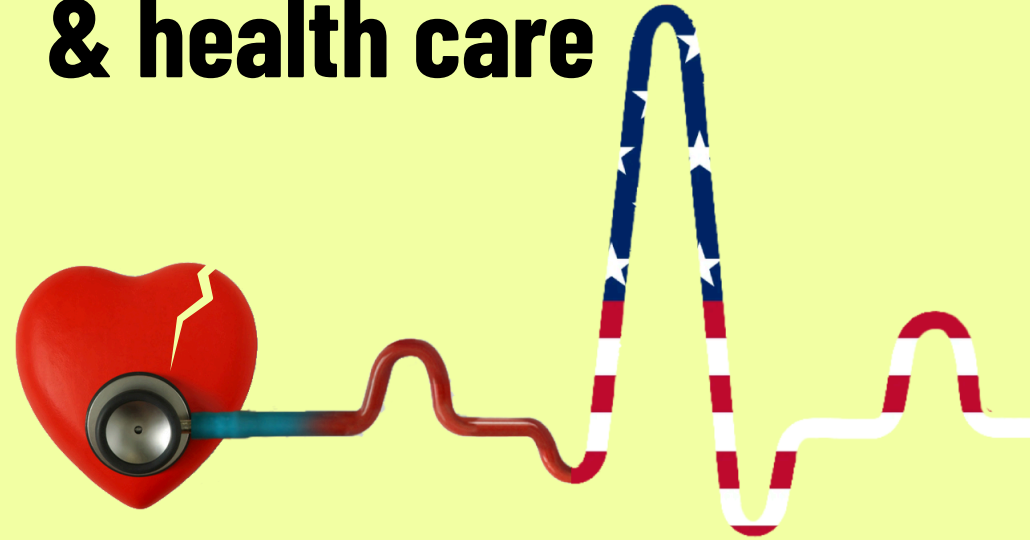
Learn more  
Join your local coalition  
Support the campaign

✉ [info@OntarioHC.ca](mailto:info@OntarioHC.ca)

Find us on social media at



# STOP the U.S. style privatization of our public hospitals & health care



## Defund, dismantle, privatize

Ontario's Ford government has been running commercials (paid by taxpayers) to tell us they are spending more on health care than ever. The truth is they are spending more on **privatization** than ever.

Some provincial governments that have close connections to private for-profit interests are working to throw open the doors to U.S. style privatization. Those corporations want access to take profit out of Canada's public health care.

The problem isn't public health care. The problem is that they are defunding & dismantling our public hospitals and other services in order to privatize them.

# A billion dollars taken away from public hospitals to privatize

Instead of using it to restore and improve our public hospitals, the Ford government is redirecting more than a billion dollars per year in public funding to for-profit corporations to privatize our health care.

**\$952.8 million**



Ontario hospitals & long-term care homes pay for-profit staffing agencies nearly \$1 billion per year for nurses & PSWs.

For-profit staffing agency prices are *triple* the cost of staff nurses and *double* for PSWs. Most of that money is taken out in profits rather than providing more care.

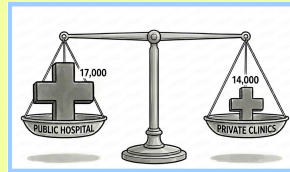
**\$327 million**



The Ford government announced nearly \$300 million for 61 new private surgical & diagnostic clinics on top of previous \$27 million annual funding increases.

At the same time, our local public hospitals have been underfunded, pushing them into deficits & forcing them to make cuts.

**Less care per \$**



In 2023, Ford redirected funding to private clinics to do 14,000 cataract surgeries per year.

They funded the private clinics 20% more per surgery.

Public hospitals would do almost 17,000 surgeries per year – far more with the same funding.

# Beware pro-privatization forces with alarming American ties



To the U.S. for-profit health care industry, Canadian Public Medicare is the “pearl” in the oyster -- worth billions in public funding -- that they are trying to pry open to take for their own profit.

They are running social media campaigns to drive down support for public health care and convince Canadians to accept privatization.

In truth, Canada has world class public hospitals, among the highest levels of education for health care staff in the world, longer life expectancy & lower infant mortality than the U.S. We have lots to be proud of.

The organizations pushing privatization are often the same ones that pushed for cuts to public funding. Now they are posing privatization as a “solution” for the problems they helped to create.

They are funded by U.S. corporate & political interests, along with pharmaceutical companies & for-profit health care companies.

It is the old adage:  
**create a crisis then privatize.**

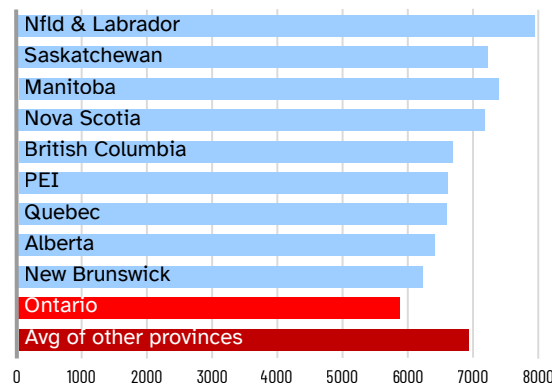
**Privatization is a “take away” not an “add on”.**

It takes staff & funding away from our local public hospitals making wait times longer for most people.

Scan here for sources & facts and information on who is pushing privatization, or go to [StopForProfitHealthCare.ca](http://StopForProfitHealthCare.ca)



## Public Health Care Funding per Person



## Ontario funds health care & hospitals at the lowest rate of any province.

Backlogs occur because so many hospital beds have been cut that all the inpatient hospital beds are full. Operating rooms sit idle because they aren't given the funding to run them. Emergency departments have nowhere to admit patients.

## When governments choose to improve access to public health care, it works!



After the 2004 Health Accord, Canada improved funding and public hospitals opened operating rooms & ran MRIs that were previously used only part-time due to underfunding.

Within 5 years, 80% of patients received care within clinically recommended time frames. The same thing was done after the pandemic. Those who claim it can't be done are saying that to push privatization.