



Ottawa Health Coalition

Protecting public healthcare for all.

The Ontario Elections Will Be Held June 7, 2018

Do You Agree that We Need More Funding for Public Health Care?

On March 22nd, the Ontario Government announced a 4.3% increase for hospitals this year, which is still less than the 5.2 % required for inflation, population growth, and aging. **And it doesn't erase a decade of cuts** which meant over \$100 million dollars to The Ottawa Hospital 's budget alone since 2011. Ontario ranks last in per-capita funding of its hospitals in Canada. In 2017, Ontario funding for hospitals was a whopping \$540 dollars per person, less than the average of other provinces. For Ottawa area hospitals alone, that's a gap of over **\$500 million**. Long Term Care funding deficiencies mean inadequate levels of hands on care and, for many years, more than 20,000 on wait lists.

Do You Agree that We Need to End the Over Crowding of Emergency Rooms in Ottawa and Ontario Hospitals?

The underfunding has left Ontario with the fewest nursing hours per patient in Canada, and the fewest hospital beds per person **in the developed world**. While the optimal occupancy rate of a hospital is 85%, the Ottawa Hospital and the Queensway-Carleton Hospital are almost always over 100% capacity.

Doctor Andrew Gee wrote recently in the Ottawa Citizen: *We function within the confines of a beleaguered system. How do I care for you when I don't even have space for you? It is not my choice to see you in the waiting room. It is not my choice that I see your grandmother in the exposed hallway. It is not my choice that you wait eight hours with a broken wrist. But it is my reality.*

Do You Agree that the New Civic Campus Be Publicly Owned and Operated in the Public's Interest?

It has been reported that the new Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital will likely be developed as a Private-Public Partnership (P3), the preferred model of the Ontario government for building new hospitals over the last decade. There are several examples of cost overruns, secrecy, corruption, decreased services and lower accountability to the community with Hospital P3s in Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and the UK. Let's not repeat those mistakes here.

The Royal Ottawa P3 experience is a warning that we cannot rely on multinational corporations to deliver public services. The service contracts should be brought back in

house to be more affordable, transparent, and accountable. Ontario's Auditor-General Bonnie Lysyk warned of the problems hospitals have encountered with the P3 partners including the diversion of public money from other operations to cover the accelerating costs of the P3 maintenance provisions.

Do you Agree that Residents in Long-Term Care (LTC) Homes Deserve More and Safer Care?

In 2001, a report from PricewaterhouseCoopers found that Ontario provided only 2.04 hours of direct care per resident, per day, contrasting with 4.1 hours recommended by experts. Bill 33, a Private-Members bill was before the Ontario Legislature proposing an average 4 hours per day minimum standard of hands on care. The government prorogued the legislature killing the bill after it had unanimously passed 2nd reading. Pressure is needed to have this legislation reintroduced and passed. Our LTC residents are more frail than ever as they are transferred out of crowded hospitals often into understaffed private facilities.

Do You Support a Publicly-Funded Not-For-Profit Primary Health Care System?

A patient's first contact with the health system is with a primary care provider. Rather than relying on private doctor's offices, this could happen in our publicly funded community health centers or Aboriginal health centers where patients can draw on the skills of a range of health care providers including for example: nutritionists, nurse practitioners, dental hygienists, doctors, RNs, RPNs, midwives, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and social workers, all under one roof. Jointly, these providers would comprise the primary health care team.

We Believe All of Those Aims Are Fair, and Affordable: It's a Political Choice!

The Ontario Government has the power to stop and reverse decades of tax cuts to corporations and the very wealthy and provide us with the high quality public health care services we all need. We are campaigning to raise public awareness of these issues in our community and are asking our fellow citizens to help get the word out.

The Ottawa Health Coalition, the local branch of the Ontario Health Coalition, is a volunteer organization of seniors, students, union and community activists who defend and promote quality, universally accessible, public health care for all.

If you are interested in helping out please visit our website: OttawaHealthCoalition.ca or email us at : ottawahealthco@gmail.com .

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