

Take Action

To Protect Local Health Care



“The Ontario budget will result in harsh cuts to local health care services. After years of corporate tax cuts and tax giveaways for the wealthy, the Ontario government is now trying to resolve the deficit on the backs of the sick and elderly.

We already have a severe shortage of hospital beds and unprecedented hospital overcrowding. There are more

than 30,000 people on wait lists for long-term care homes. We also have a privatized home care system that fails to meet the basic needs of Ontarians. Yet more cuts are on the way.

It is urgent that ordinary Ontarians from across this province stand up to protect universal and fair access to public non-profit health care for all people in need.”

Natalie Mehra, Director of the Ontario Health Coalition

Wednesday May 16 at 7:00 pm

King's College, Labatt Hall Rm. 105

266 Epworth Avenue

Featuring:

Vicki McKenna, Ontario Nurses' Association • Peter Bergmanis, CAW •
Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition • Sandi Blancher, OPSEU •
Michael Shapcott, Wellesley Institute

What we can do to
protect our local
health services and
make health care
decisions more
accountable

Discussion

Q&A

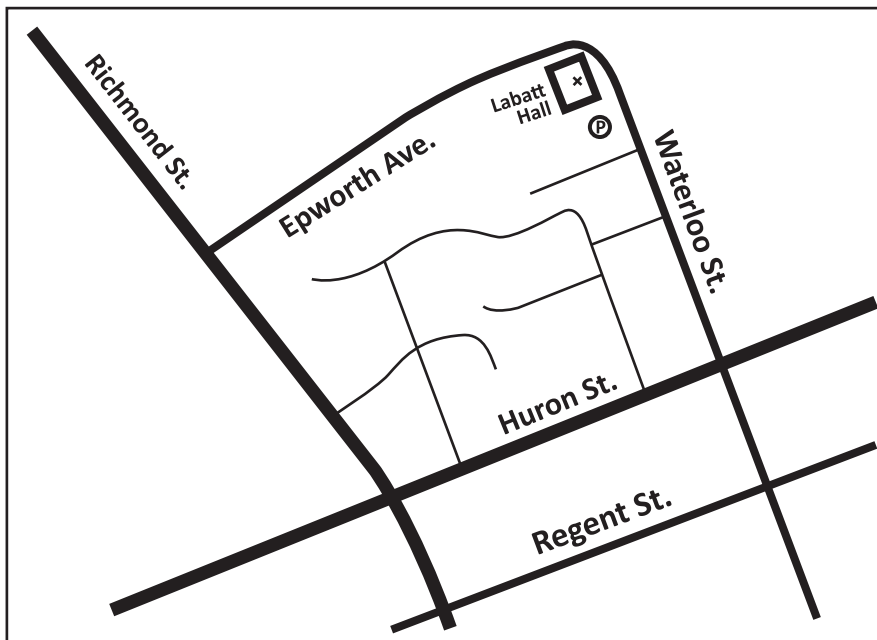
Ideas

You can help to forge a better way

For more information: London Health Coalition 519-473-6191
or Ontario Health Coalition 416-441-2502 www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

The Ontario Health Coalition released four key demands to protect the public interest and access to health care:

1. a. Ontario has a 98% hospital occupancy rate – far higher than other jurisdictions. Long waits in emergency departments for hospital admissions and extraordinary hospital overcrowding show that Ontario has cut hospitals too deeply. We are calling for a moratorium on bed cuts and a proper, evidence-based bed study.
- b. Services in small and rural hospitals are at risk. In the past few years, emergency departments, acute care beds and core services have been closed in Burk's Falls, Shelbourne, Port Colborne and Fort Erie. Changes to the hospital funding formula will put more strain on the available funding for rural hospitals. We are calling for a moratorium on closures/closure of major services in rural hospitals.
2. As hospital beds have been cut, long-term care and home care increases have never kept pace. Wait times have tripled since 2005 for long-term care facilities, and home care is more severely rationed than ever. We are calling for adequate funding to maintain existing services and address wait times in the public system: across the continuum (ltc, home care, hospitals).
3. Each round of restructuring has been accompanied by privatization of the ownership of new health care services. The majority of home and long-term care are now controlled by for-profit companies. Community laboratories, rehabilitation and outpatient clinics have been/are being privatized. There is a serious risk that new funding mechanisms and restructuring will lead to for-profit privatization of clinical hospital services. We are calling for a commitment to stop privatization of health care services, including long-term and home care.
4. The government has proposed a new funding formula for hospitals that includes the movement away from global funding to a market-based funding per procedure mechanism (fee-for-service funding). This system has been used in Britain and has resulted in serious financial instability, removal of services from local hospitals, privatization, and increased administrative costs. We are calling for open public consultations on this plan that will have serious consequences for vital health services in our communities.



**266 Epworth Ave.,
Labatt Hall - Room 105**

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