

# Join the Fightback and Protect our Public Health Care

Let's make it visible so that everyone knows about the threat of privatization.

- ✓ Put our lawn sign up in your yard, our car decal on your car and/or our window sign in your window. Ask your friends to do the same.
- ✓ Tell your local candidates that you want to hear clear commitments to ending privatization of health care & improving funding and care.
- ✓ Donate, become a member or donate to help cover cost for the signs and car decals here:

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

or send a donation by cheque to:

Ontario Health Coalition  
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 201  
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8

## Authorized by the Ontario Health Coalition

The Ontario Health Coalition represents more than ¾ of a million Ontarians, working to safeguard public health care & protect our public health system from cuts & privatization.



Lawn Signs



Window Signs



Car Decals

[www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca](http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca)

# Our Public Health Care Is Under Attack

Our health care heroes have shown the world class quality of Ontario's public health care in the worst crisis we have experienced. We owe them a lot. Decades of hospital downsizing, long-term & home care privatization, and underfunding have taken a toll on them.

Our public health care needs our support now more than ever. We have the fewest hospital beds, the lowest health care funding and the fewest nurses per patient of any province in Canada. Now, the Ford government is privatizing public health care & plans 8 years of budget austerity unless Ontarians take a stand & stop them.

## So far the Ford government has:

- Awarded the very worst for-profit long-term care operators new licenses & expansions, despite their horrific records of negligence and COVID-19 deaths. Ford also plans to award more than 18,000 long-term care beds to the same for-profit operators in 30-year licenses if we don't stop him.
- Privatized COVID-19 testing & vaccinations.
- Made plans to privatize surgeries & diagnostics.
- Passed Bill 175 which clears the way to privatize the last remaining public parts of home care.
- Cut, privatized & deregulated vital health care services, before the pandemic stopped them. Now Ford plans years of austerity post election. To meet their budget targets, \$18 billion in permanent cuts to public services, including health care, would be required.

*and there is much more....*

## Our public hospital services under threat of privatization



The Ford government has made plans to privatize our public hospitals' surgeries & diagnostics.

- For-profit clinics & hospitals provide poorer quality care, hire less qualified staff and direct public funds into profits rather than care.
- Privatization worsens staffing shortages by taking scarce staff from our public hospitals.
- Private clinics take less complex profitable patients, leaving complex & heavier care patients (who are more expensive) to public hospitals with less staff & funding to care for them.
- Private clinics/hospitals charge user fees & extra bill patients on top of OHIP for medically necessary services; a violation of the Canada Health Act which bans charging patients for medically necessary services. Private clinics/hospitals often charge double or even up to five times the cost in our public health system.

More Info: <https://tinyurl.com/PublicHealthOHC>

## Our long-term care is under threat of privatization



In 1998, Ontario's Conservative Mike Harris government built 20,000 new long-term care (LTC) beds & allocated the majority to for-profit corporations. Now the Ford government is building more than 30,000 LTC beds & is mid-stream in awarding >18,000 of them to for-profit operators, many of them, the worst for-profits responsible for thousands of deaths & terrible neglect in the pandemic.

- For-profit LTC homes spend 24% less on care than non-profit homes.
- For-profit homes have lower staffing & care levels, poor working conditions for staff, high turnover, heavy workloads & lower wages.
- Residents in for-profit homes have poorer health outcomes: they are 25% more likely to be hospitalized & 10% more likely to die.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, death rates in for-profit homes were 5-times greater than those of publicly-owned homes & double those of non-profit homes.

More Info: <https://tinyurl.com/OHCLTC>

## Our home care is under threat of privatization



In 1996, Conservative Premier Mike Harris brought in for-profit companies to bid for home care services against the non-profit home care providers like the V.O.N. Over the years, the for-profits took over more home care services. Now, the Ford government is planning to expand the privatization of home care. Bill 175 guts the former home care legislation, including vital protections for patients, and sets up the privatization of the last remaining publicly controlled parts of home care. The consequences of home care privatization have been devastating.

They include:

- Severe staffing shortages leading to missed visits in which people are left with no nurse/PSW to provide vital care.
- High staff turnover which means poor quality care provided by strangers, including intimate care.
- Millions of public dollars siphoned off for profit.
- Per hour of home care, for-profits are paid almost double what they pay the staff who actually provide the care, taking the difference in profits and administration

More Info: <https://tinyurl.com/HomecareOHC>

## ...& the Ford government is not stopping there

- In 2019, Ford planned to reduce the number of Public Health Units from 35 to 10 and cut 27%, or \$200 million per year, of provincial funding for Public Health. Although he backtracked on some of these plans, cuts continued & the restructuring is not off the table.
- Ford planned to cut & restructure ambulance dispatch centres, down from 59 to 10. Delayed by the pandemic, these plans are not off the table.

More Info: <https://tinyurl.com/OHCPHCUTS>

- Instead of giving resources to Public Health Units & public labs to ramp up COVID testing, the Ford government has awarded contracts to private labs & for-profit pharmacy chains.
- On December 30, Doug Ford strictly cut access to public COVID-19 testing while allowing for-profit companies to administer COVID-19 tests for exorbitant prices (\$95 - \$200+).
- Ford has privatized vaccinations, awarding contracts to Shoppers Drug Mart, Rexall & FH Health.