

# The Pulse

Newsletter

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## WHY PROTEST?

### Broken Promise to Ontario's Seniors



Ontario has the second worst levels of care in Canada in our long-term care homes. During the last election, Dalton McGuinty promised to bring in minimum care standards to improve care levels for Ontario's seniors. But in June the government abandoned its promise leaving nothing to protect vulnerable residents and careworkers from unreasonable caseloads that have led to serious rates of accident, injury and violence.

### Long-term For-Profit Privatization in Homecare

McGuinty is planning to bring in decade-long contracts (entrenching for a decade or more competitive bidding and for-profit privatization) in homecare. Despite promising a proper policy review, the government has refused public consultation and has not even considered creating a stable public non-profit homecare system as exists in every other province in Canada.

### Major Hospital Cuts and Closures



Hospital restructuring has hit across Ontario. McGuinty has set hospital budgets at lower rates than inflation and population growth for this year and next year, and is now forcing major service cuts:

- closing two hospitals emergency rooms in Niagara
- moving birthing services out of small communities
- firing the Kingston hospital CEO who was campaigning for improved funding to prevent cuts in his hospital
- Pushing Windsor hospital patients into retirement homes (completely unregulated, non-accredited, non-healthcare for-profit facilities that are not set up to take hospital patients)
- Requiring all Durham/Peterborough area hospitals to cut 1% of their budgets without concern for the consequences
- Cutting mental health services in Ajax, and forcing the layoffs of approximately 200 nurses and careworkers
- Privatizing hospital labs and moving them out of local communities in Southeastern Ontario and Bracebridge/Hunstville
- Privatizing chiropody in Collingwood, fertility services in Hamilton, and physiotherapy in Kincardine and Deep River, forcing patients to pay or go without

### Wasting Money on For-Profit Privatization



Although the government claims tight finances to justify these cuts, they continue to waste hundreds of millions of dollars on privatized P3 hospitals. The Brampton hospital P3 cost overruns would finance all of Ontario's current hospital deficits. From North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie to Niagara, Ottawa and Woodstock, every privatized P3 hospital has seen major cost overruns and millions squandered on consultants and profiteering. And, despite the record of bed cuts, problems with the for-profit companies, service cuts and exorbitant costs, the McGuinty government is still moving forward with 12 long-term (20 – 30 year) P3 hospitals.

**If McGuinty can waste millions in public money on for-profit multinational corporations in hospitals, long term care and homecare, he can afford to provide needed health care to Ontario citizens.**



**Listen UP!  
McGuinty**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27**

**Kingston** 11 am Gather McBurney Park (Ordinance & Alma Sts.) for a march, rally with music and food

**Sudbury** 11 am Gather at Tom Davies Square (Brady & Minto Sts.) for a march, rally & barbeque

**Thunder Bay** 11 am Gather at Paterson Park (May & Miles Sts.) for mass community leafletting; 1 pm rally at Bill Mauro's office (240 S.Syndicate near Arthur)

**Toronto** 11 am Gather at Metro Hall Square (Wellington & John Sts.) march to the Legislature

**Windsor** 11 am Gather at Dieppe Park (Riverside Dr. & Ferry St.) to leaflet; 1 pm gather for a rally at Finance Minister Dwight Duncan's office (2825

## Community WATCH Save Our Hospitals!

Join the local fight-back to stop cuts to - and privatization of - our local hospital services. Hospitals facing cuts include:

- Erie St. Clair LHIN- small hospital ERs under threat of closure; facing cuts - Leamington, Petrolia/Sarnia, Wallaceburg, Windsor.
- S/W LHIN - South Grey Bruce Health Centre (4 hospitals), Grey Bruce Health Services (6 hospitals), London, Newbury, St. Thomas, Strathroy, Tillsonburg, Woodstock
- Waterloo-Wellington LHIN - Cambridge, Grand River Hospital
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN - Niagara Health System (Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls hospitals), Hamilton, Burlington
- Central LHIN - Etobicoke General (services moved to Brampton)
- Mississauga Halton LHIN - Trillium Health Centre
- Toronto Central LHIN - St. Mike's
- Central LHIN- Alliston (cutting democratic board), Markham-Stouffville, York Central, Humber River Regional Hospital
- Central East - Rouge Valley, Campbellford, Northumberland Hills, Lakeridge Health Oshawa, Peterborough Civic
- S/E LHIN - Quinte Healthcare Corporation (3 hospitals), Kingston General, Hotel Dieu in Kingston, Lennox & Addington, Perth Smith Falls
- Champlain LHIN - Cornwall, CHEO
- North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN - South Muskoka Memorial, Collingwood, Midland (cutting democratic hospital board)
- N/E LHIN - Mattawa, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, West Nipissing General Hospital
- N/W LHIN - Kenora

Call us for more information on your local fight-back.

