

Major Cuts to Niagara Hospitals Threaten our Health

Dalton McGuinty!



The McGuinty government has set hospital budgets below the rate of inflation for this year and next. This has pushed 50% of Ontario's hospitals into deficit this year. More than 70% of Ontario's hospitals will be in deficit next year. While the government is forcing hospitals to make drastic cuts to needed health services in our communities to eliminate their deficits, the government refuses to be accountable to provide adequate funding for our hospitals.

Niagara's Hospitals are Particularly Hard Hit

The NHS has to find cuts to eliminate a budget deficit of approx. \$16 million this year and \$15 million next year, even though all experts agree that the hospital is underfunded.

They have already announced major cuts to staff and services, including:

- Closing the Emergency Rooms and surgical beds – and ultimately the entire hospitals in Port Colborne and Fort Erie.
 - These ERs saw more than 40,000 patients last year -- patients that are now to travel into St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls threatening to overwhelm our already overstretched ERs and hospital beds.
- Closing birthing and mental health services across the peninsula – all patients will have to travel into St. Catharines further overcrowding the hospital here.
- Cuts to hospital beds and other services.

The hospital cuts and restructuring plan for Niagara will result in a net loss of hospital services for our whole region. We should be very concerned that our hospital cannot take the influx of patients from all across the Niagara peninsula as services are cut and closed down.

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You can help stop the cuts to Niagara Hospitals!

The provincial government is forcing these cuts through their decision to fund hospitals at less than the rate of inflation. It is very important that our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Jim Bradley, hears from us in St. Catharines, that we are concerned and want him to stop the cuts. Please email, phone or write to Jim Bradley and tell him that we expect him to stand up for hospital care in our region and stop the cuts.

- **Write/call/email Jim Bradley our local MPP:**
Unit 2, 2 Secord Drive, St. Catharines, ON, L2N 1K8 T: 905-935-0018 F: 905-935-0191
E: jbradley.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
- **Write/call/email Premier Dalton McGuinty:**
Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A4
T: 416-325-1941 F: 416-325-3745
E: dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
- **Volunteer with the Niagara Health Coalition:**
T: 905-932-1646 E: [email for Niagara HC]

Did You Know?
Ontario's hospitals are funded \$100 less per person than hospitals in other provinces. This equals \$1.2 billion in total less than other provinces.

April 18th: Rally to Save Hospital Services From Cuts!

Time: 12pm (noon)

Location: MPP Jim Bradley's office
Unit 2, 2 Secord Dr., St. Catharines

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