

Ontario Health Coalition
Suggested Questions For Candidates
For Provincial Election October 10, 2007

1. What will you do to stop private for-profit hospitals and surgical clinics from opening in Ontario? *These clinics will siphon scarce doctors, nurses and health professionals out of our hospitals to profit-seeking clinics. They will increase wait times for most, they will lobby for more two-tier care, and will lead to the Americanization of our health system as the US. for-profit hospital companies move in.*
2. Will you commit to stopping privatized P3 hospitals - (including P3s that have been renamed as “Alternative Financing” arrangements to avoid democratic scrutiny and public criticism)? *In case any candidate attempts to confuse the public and avoid criticism by renaming the P3s, we are referring to those new hospitals that are funded by for-profit companies who are paid back in 20 - 30 year expensive financing deals that involve long term for-profit privatization of our hospital services and lands. Currently, this includes the hospitals in St. Catharines, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton, Ottawa, Woodstock, Bridgepoint (Toronto), and others.*
3. Will you commit to bringing in a minimum average care standard of 3.5 hours of care per day in our nursing homes and long term care facilities? *This standard would be weighted to the average care needs of each long term care home, so that those homes with more complex care needs would be required to provide more care and those with less complex care needs would have a lighter care requirement.*
4. Will you commit to stopping competitive bidding and privatization in homecare? Will you bring in a public non-profit homecare system that includes supportive care services to keep elderly people independent at home if they so choose?
5. Will you commit to planning for health care staff to alleviate current and upcoming shortages and reduce wait times? How will you ensure that local hospitals are not closed or cut due to shortages of key health personnel?
6. Will you commit to protecting our local, small and rural hospitals? Will you pledge to keep all existing services in local, small and rural hospitals? How will you improve those services?
7. Will you ban all transfers of existing non-profit health care services to for-profit companies?
8. Will you investigate and stop doctors who are charging fees for patients who want to jump the queue? Will you enforce the Canada Health Act that provides equal access to health care based on need not on wealth?

A full review and comparison of the major parties’ platforms will be released during the election campaign and will be available on our website at www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

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