

Save Our Elected Hospital Boards

What's Happening?

Almost 100 years ago, the communities of Midland and Alliston fundraised and built our local hospitals. From the beginning, our communities elected our local hospital boards.

Now, the McGuinty government is trying to wipe out our local voting rights. They want to replace our elected boards with appointed boards. These boards would, in effect, become self-selecting either by eradicating all community memberships and having the board appoint itself every year, or by keeping community memberships but taking away voting rights of members, leaving the board to appoint themselves every year.

This is about silencing opposition to hospital cuts

The McGuinty government is engaged in a major round of hospital cuts and restructuring. They are hiding behind the LHINs and appointed hospital supervisors to effect cuts. Elected hospital boards have represented their community and our need for services. The government is working to silence opposition to hospital cuts and restructuring by taking away these voices.

This is about less accountability for hospital CEOs

Some Supervisors - who are hospital CEOs appointed by the McGuinty government - like the model of unelected boards. It transfers more power to hospital CEOs who have more influence on the appointment processes. It makes it harder for the community to hold CEOs accountable for waste, poor management practices and mis-spending.

This is not about stability

The normal practice for elected boards to achieve stability is to stagger the terms of the board members. Board members have two year terms that can be renewed usually to a maximum of three terms or six years. Each year several positions come up for election. The whole board is never up for election in one year. So it would take several years for anyone to "take over" a board for a single or fleeting interest group. The pretense that this is about stability is a "red herring".

Communities that lose their boards lose services

Over the last decade, communities across Ontario that have lost their elected hospital boards through mergers or wiping out of their democratic rights have lost hospital services. They lose their voice. And they have less access to information. This has already happened in places like Four Counties, Petrolia, Picton, Ajax, Port Colborne, Fort Erie and others.

What Can We Do?

Every single member of the provincial government owes their position and their power to elections. They have no mandate to take away our democratic voting rights.

- Tell Dalton McGuinty and his nearest government local MPP in Simcoe County, Aileen Carroll to stop trying to take away our voting rights in our hospital boards.
- Contact our local opposition MPPs Garfield Dunlop and Jim Wilson fight to protect our democratic local hospital boards. (Garfield Dunlop has petitions to sign in his Midland office).

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