

Healthcare

Protect Public Healthcare

The five principles of the Canada Health Act are Universality, Comprehensiveness, Portability, Accessibility and importantly, Public Administration, in a non profit basis. However, the privatization of our public health care system in Ontario continues. There has been little public consultation on how our public system is being privatized from the inside out. Funding is being diverted from our Public healthcare system to innumerable private for profit clinics, enormously expensive P3 projects, private home care corporations and private long term care companies. The stark decision facing us is how we rebuild in our cherished public healthcare system.

Capacity Crisis

Public hospitals in ON have suffered from prolonged (9 years) funding levels that have been less than inflation. We have a capacity crisis. Public hospitals are now operating at 100% to 140% capacity, the target is 85%. We are seeing many more expensive P3 hospitals built and at the same time our publicly owned hospitals are being closed down. Investment in publically owned hospitals is inadequate. Ontario has the fewest hospital beds, nurses and staff of any province and patients are suffering as a result. Ontario needs to restore cut beds and services. The OHA is asking for \$1Billion in additional funding for 2018/2019 just to meet existing capacity demands.

Long Term Care (LTC)

In ON today we have a deficit of 30,000 LTC beds and a plan, started in 2003 and ending in 2017, to build 10,000 LTC beds. The details are in the Ministry of Seniors "Aging with Confidence" report. However, the strategy has been to fund primarily private long term care corporations, such a as Rivera and Extendicare. Public LTC facilities such as Grey Gables in Markdale are being sold forcing residents into privately managed facilities farther away. Moreover, the minimum care standard of four hours per resident per day will no longer be monitored or enforced. New legislation is only focused upon the rules and nature of confinement for patients in LTC facilities.

Pharmacare

Canadian overall drug costs are the second highest in the world next to the USA. We have the only national healthcare plan without national Pharmacare and our pharmaceutical industry level of R&D is miniscule, the lowest investment compared to all other OECD countries. Pharmaceutical company profits are spectacular. A national Pharmacare plan would allow us to negotiate a fair price for Canadians, just like all other countries, except the USA.

How will you rebuild capacity and service levels in our public health care system?

Will you redirect the billions in overspending on P3 hospitals and private clinics to our publically owned hospitals?

What is your plan for Private LTC facilities that do not provide the minimum care standard or unscrupulous providers such as those identified in the Ontario LTC class action lawsuits?



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PARTY PLATFORM

Ontario Liberal Party

- Invest \$19 billion in hospitals over 10 years
- Invest \$300 million over three years for long-term care facilities
- Introduce a program to help cover costs of pharmaceutical drugs and dental care for Ontarians without workplace benefits, regardless of income or pre-existing OHIP+ coverage.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

- Reduce hospital and emergency room wait times
- Create a dental program for low-income seniors
- Build 15,000 new long-term care beds over 5 years, 30,000 in 10 years

New Democratic Party of Ontario

- 5.3% increase each year to hospital budget
- 5% increase to community based non-profit health centres
- 15,000 new long-term care beds over 5 years
- Create a dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. Hire 2,200 new mental health \ care workers

Green Party of Ontario

- Reduce wait times and increase options for rural residents
- Provide all health care professionals with mental health and addictions training

Ontario Libertarian Party

- Allow non-governmental plans as an alternative to OHIP to meet specific health care needs

For more information, please contact KW Council of Canadians at kw.cofc@gmail.com

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