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Save Our Public Medicare

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**Ontario**
Health Coalition
Protecting public healthcare for all.

URGENT

Our Public Hospitals are

NOT FOR SALE

The Doug Ford government is planning to privatize our vital public hospital services

The Ford government is privatizing thousands of surgeries & diagnostics tests & taking them out of our local public hospitals to for-profit clinics.

This will result in thousands of dollars in user fees for patients

unless we stop them.

THE LATEST

- January 16: Premier Doug Ford announced the first phases of his plan to privatize public hospitals.
- Ford is opening new for-profit clinics, expanding existing private clinics & shunting tens of millions in public funding to private clinics & hospitals.
- Ford said that 50% of the surgeries done in our public hospitals are the kind that could be cut & privatized.

The Ford government lied in the lead-in to the election saying outright that they were not & will not expand private for-profit clinics & hospitals.

Virtually every hospital in Ontario has operating rooms that are closed for days, weeks, months, or even permanently, due to lack of funding.

There is all kinds of capacity IN OUR PUBLIC HOSPITALS to clear the backlog of surgeries & diagnostic tests, if the government would fund them to do so.

For 100 years, Ontarians have built our system of local public hospitals on a non-profit basis, in the public interest. In communities across the province, people have donated, volunteered & worked to build services close to home.

Private for-profit clinics:

- Take away services from local communities & centralize services to high volume centres. The cuts & centralization of our services will be devastating to local public hospitals. For-profit clinics & hospital are not an "add on," they are a "take away."
- Take away staff from our local hospitals which are in are in a staffing crisis. currently in crisis. The private clinics only take the fast, easy, profitable patients, leaving more complex patients to public hospitals with less funding & staff to provide for them.
- Take away funds from our public hospitals & divert them to for-profit corporations at our public expense.

The Harris government privatized long-term & home care. It's been a disaster ever since. Now the Ford government is trying to privatize our public hospitals.

For-profit privatization is a serious THREAT to our Public Medicare.

The Canada Health Act is like a patients' bill of rights. It says:

- No patient can be charged for medically needed hospital & physician care.
- Extra-billing & user fees charged to patients are forbidden.
- Health care is to be provided based on medical need & not on your wealth.

This is what Canadians won when we achieved Public Medicare for all.

We have called the private for-profit clinics across the country. We have caught the majority of them violating the Canada Health Act & extra-billing patients for medically needed services.

Not only is this illegal, their prices are exorbitant:

Price charged to patients in private clinics	
Cataract Surgery	3x-4x the OHIP cost \$2,000- \$5,000+ per eye
MRI Scans	3x-4x the OHIP cost often starting at \$1,000
Hip Surgery	3x-4x the OHIP cost often starting at \$5,000++
Shoulder Surgery	10x the OHIP cost \$5,000 - \$10,500++

The clinics have been caught by auditors for both double billing & extra billing. That means they billed the provincial health plan, such as OHIP, & charge the patient as well- for the same surgery or diagnostic test.

For-profit privatization of hospital services has resulted in serious quality of care & safety issues. The evidence shows:

- For-profit hospitals have significantly higher death rates because they skimp on trained staff to make room for profits.
- For profit dialysis have significantly higher death rates because they use shorter dialysis times in order to push patients through to increase profits.
- There is less regulatory oversight for private for-profit clinics & fewer safety requirements.