



MAJOR PROTEST

OPENING DAY OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE Monday, September 25, 2023 at 12pm Noon

TORONTO at Queen's Park outside the Main Legislative Building at 12pm noon
THUNDER BAY at Mini Queen's Park at South James St. at 12pm noon
DRYDEN outside MPP Greg Rickford's office, 439 Government St. at 11:30am CST (Dryden time)
ALGOMA outside the Sault Area Hospital at Lukenda Dr. at 12pm noon

Please join the protest closest to you.

*The Ford government has set opening day on Yom Kippur. We will hold a second event on Sept. 26 at noon for people in the Jewish community who cannot attend on the 25th.

Are you coming?

Let us know if you are joining on September 25.
Share the link with your friends and family.
Plan to carpool or register to get on one of the many buses!
Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MassProtest> or scan the QR code.



Let's make a major show of strength & make it impossible for the Ford government to carry on unchallenged. We are not going away. We will not let them privatize our public hospitals.



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See back cover for details

We need to take action as though our public health care is in grave danger. Because it is.

The Ford government is **privatizing** our public hospitals to **for-profit** hospitals & clinics.

They are letting the for-profit clinics charge patients **thousands of dollars**.

They are **closing small & local hospital** emergency departments & urgent care.

They have **underspent the health budget by \$1.7 billion** even while thousands of nurses, doctors & health professionals have left & our public operating rooms sit idle much of the time.

They're **spending hundreds of millions of public dollars** privatizing our nurses & our hospital services.

They're giving **new 30-year contracts** & major expansions to the very worst for-profit long-term care corporations.





Our public hospitals are just that. They are ours.

No one has a mandate to close or privatize them. If anything they should be more public...more democratic, with more resources to provide care, restored elected public hospital boards, restored local services, more responsive to our communities. If we lose our hospitals to for-profit companies it will be very difficult, if possible at all, to get them back. So, we fight for what is ours for generations to come.

It took our communities more than 100 years to build our local public hospitals & public health care.

We have spent years fundraising & volunteering to support our local public hospitals. Now the Ford government is planning to take thousands of surgeries & diagnostic tests out of our local public hospitals & privatize them to for-profit hospitals & clinics... unless we stop them.

It is a choice by the Ford government not to fund & open the under-used operating rooms we already have in our public hospitals.

We don't need to privatize. Operating rooms in our public hospitals are closed evenings, weekends -- sometimes even permanently -- due to underfunding and understaffing. Resourcing our public hospitals to keep open our operating rooms and diagnostics would clear the backlog of patients waiting.

The Ford government's hospital privatization plan is a "take away" from our local public hospitals.

For-profit hospitals & clinics take staff out of our local public hospitals making shortages worse. They also take only take the fast, easy, profitable patients. They leave the complicated surgeries, such as cancer care, and riskier patients (eg. those with diabetes, are overweight, have COPD/heart arrhythmias etc.) to our public hospitals with less funding & staff to provide care.



Because health care is about caring for people, not profit.

Tell Doug Ford to:

- Stop privatizing our public hospitals & other health care services,
- Stop creating a crisis in our public hospitals by underfunding them, cutting and closing services, and trying to roll back wages of nurses, health professionals & support staff,
- Expand the use of existing ORs in our public hospitals that are closed much of the time due to understaffing and underfunding, and
- Expand capacity in our public hospitals & restore closed services

Health care shouldn't depend on how rich you are.

For-profit clinics & hospitals routinely charge patients thousands of dollars on top of OHIP for needed surgeries & tests. This "extra-billing" is illegal under the Canada Health Act which requires care to be provided without charge based on medical need -- not how much money we have -- & which bans extra-billing.

For-profit clinics also take profits by getting patients to pay for unneeded tests & extras. Their prices are very high - often up to five times higher than OHIP costs.



Ontario funds our public hospitals at the lowest rate in Canada.

The Ford government has underspent the health care budget by billions even while patients are waiting, our emergency departments & other vital services are closing, and our nurses & hospital staff are leaving by the thousands due to overwork, burnout & frustration. This follows years of underfunding. If the Ontario government funded our health care even to the average of Canada, they could resolve the crisis.