

Ontario Health Coalition

Spread the word, make it heard!

Stop the Privatization of our public health care leafletting & community organizing campaign

Sample script for door-to-door or person-to-person outreach with leaflet. Note: you will want to bring a sign up sheet with you to sign people up to keep in touch, for lawn signs and where appropriate to come to the May 30 rally (on bus or not, depending where you are and what your local plans are). You may also want to have a local insert in the leaflet with any local information on how privatization and dismantling of public health care impact your community, your local MPP(s) contact information and information on lawn signs, buses/equivalent to May 30 rallies and how to contact your local coalition.

Script:

Hi, I'm Jane from the Mississauga Health Coalition and we are concerned about our government turning our public health care over to for-profit corporations and making it harder for us to get a family doctor and public hospital care, like emergency departments. Here is a leaflet with some information.

(They will respond. Virtually everyone is totally supportive. If you get into a discussion, you can highlight some of the points below.)

We are asking if people will help stop the privatization of our health care. You can call or email our local MPP. (Bring the contact info with you on an insert or something you can give them.) Then, if appropriate, sign them up:

Can I put you down for us to keep in touch with updates?

We are doing a lawn sign campaign this summer to support public health care and stop privatization. Can we put up a lawn sign at your house?

If appropriate, we are holding major rallies on Thursday, May 30, do you want to come? If so, there are seats on a bus from Mississauga. I can sign you up.

Thank you very much.

If you get into a discussion, you can highlight some of these points:

We don't need to privatize.

Operating rooms in our public hospitals are closed evenings, weekends — sometimes even permanently — due to underfunding.

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

public hospitals.

Even a few extra hours per day over 3 months would clear the backlog of patients waiting.

For-profit hospitals & clinics only take the fast, easy, profitable patients.

They also take their staff out of our local public hospitals.

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.

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 our wealth, & which bans extra-billing. No government has been successful in controlling the for-profits.

It would require a whole new system to monitor, inspect and police them.

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.

For-profit privatization is a fatal threat to our cherished system of Canadian public health care for all & is more expensive.

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

The Ford government has underspent the health care budget by \$1.25 billion, 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.

The Ford government’s hospital privatization plan is a “take away” from our local public hospitals.

It will be damaging to all public hospitals & particularly devastating to medium & smaller hospitals that lose surgeries, diagnostics, doctors, nurses & health professionals.

Here is the campaign website: <https://www.stopforprofithealthcare.ca/> There are easy-to-find fact sheets and more information there. That is the website to which the leaflet links through the QR code and the website address on the middle and back pages.

For more in depth information you can also go to the main Ontario Health Coalition website here: <https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/>