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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR ONTARIO HEALTH COALITION

Sisters and Brothers:

We are writing to encourage your local to support the Ontario Health Coalition.

CUPE was a founding partner in creating the Coalition and we are longstanding members with a representative on the Board of Directors. We appreciate this tremendously effective hard-working Coalition that brings together everyone from students to seniors and labours tirelessly to protect public health care in our province and country.

In recent months, the Health Coalition organized a door-to-door campaign and referendum to protect our local public hospitals. They were trying to stop a plan by the Ontario government to cut their services and contract them out to private clinics. They held votes in target communities in public markets, on street corners and in workplaces. Over a couple of months they gathered more than 80,000 votes to protect local hospital services and stop the private clinics. They delivered the tens of thousands of ballots to the Premier in early July. Our union joined the Coalition in meetings with the Premier and her staff about this. We have already won some improvements and we are optimistic that we will succeed on this issue if we mobilize our members to save our services.

The Coalition also did a 30-town tour with a giant 10 foot-tall rocking chair to raise awareness to improve care levels to protect the residents and staff in nursing homes and reduce wait lists.

They held more than 10 press conferences and rallies across the province to draw attention to Stephen Harper's attempts to walk away from Public Medicare.

Here are just a few of the successes of the coalition over the last few years:

- They stopped the sale of the Shouldice hospital to multinational private health care giant Centric Health.
- They stopped the attempt to set up a Super-Ministry in the 2012 Budget Act, with powers to override existing Ministries and privatize public services across the board. This was a major achievement. The government amended the budget to almost entirely remove this section of the Budget Act.
- They have stopped the closure of a dozen or more small and rural emergency departments and hospitals and forced the government to back off the plans to shut down rural hospitals.
- They have won funding and stopped the cuts at hospitals all across the province, including stopping the movement of cancer services out of Windsor recently and winning the opening of 60 more hospital beds.
- Working together, the Coalition and CUPE have raised the issue of minimum care standards in long-term care to the top of the health care agenda, and we have won more funding for direct care staff in the process.

You can support the Ontario Health Coalition by giving a monthly donation. Just send a VOID cheque to the coalition with a note telling them how much you would like to donate per month.

You can give \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50 or \$100 or more per month. Coalition staff or volunteers will get in touch with you to work out details.

Or your local union /unit can buy an annual membership for the following rates:

Under 100 members \$25

Over 100 members, rates set at \$ 0.20 per member

E.g. 500 members = \$100; 5,000 members = \$1,000

Since the coalition keeps its membership rates low to ensure that it is accessible, most groups buy a membership and add in a donation.

You can send your membership and donation to:

**Ontario Health Coalition
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 604
Toronto, ON M3C 1Y8
Tel: 416-441-2502
ohc@sympatico.ca**

We hope your local will send a membership and donation to the coalition as part of our collective commitment to social justice and equity in our country, and in defense of public health care for all.

In Solidarity,



Fred Hahn
President



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer