

# Organize your Ontario Health Coalition Workplace Referendum to protect public healthcare.



Do you want our public hospital services to be privatized to for-profit hospitals and clinics? Share your opinion.

## **Why should your local support the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) by holding a workplace referendum on health care privatization in Ontario?**

- The Ford government has introduced Bill 60, a Bill that introduced for-profit health care in our province.
- It will cut core services – like surgeries and diagnostics – from our public hospitals and turn them over to for-profit clinics and hospitals.
- The Ford provincial government policy choices have set the stage for the push to privatize health care:
  - Ontario is dead last in health care spending among all the provinces;
  - Health care in Ontario has been funded below inflation for many years;
  - Even during the COVID pandemic, the PCs underspent on health care by billions of dollars;
  - They fueled an unprecedented staffing crisis by capping wages under Bill 124 at a time when inflation hit 9% – a 30-year high.
- Private clinics and hospitals will deepen the staffing crisis – by draining staff away from public hospitals, adding tens of thousands of additional vacancies to already understaffed hospitals.
- The threat is especially grave in small towns and rural Ontario, where nearly 150 emergency departments closed because of lack of staff.
- The privatization of surgical and diagnostic services is just one of the areas of hospital privatization that is currently underway: low acuity hospital patients are being moved to beds in “reactivation” or “transitional care” centres, where they receive less care and staff is paid far less than in hospitals; the government is increasing contracting-out; and it plans more P3 privatization.
- In the words of the Ontario Health Coalition, Bill 60 is a take-away, not an add-on. And as Ontarians, we have never been at greater risk of losing our public system of health care.