

PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVICES

KEY ISSUES

With public services anyone, regardless of where they work or live, or how much money they make, has equality of access to services like education, health and social services.

The Conservatives have always favoured privatization. The Liberals say they promote public services, but only protect them when there is a public outcry. These parties are two sides of the same coin.

- The Conservatives started the concept of public-private partnerships (P3s) in the hospital sector. The Liberals have now introduced 12 privatized (P3) hospitals. There would have been more if not for the constant campaigning by CUPE Ontario, and its partners including the Ontario Health Coalition. That pressure also forced the Liberals to narrow the scope of privatization to only “bricks and mortar” and forced them to rename P3 to AFPs – alternative financing and procurement.
- Both parties have starved cities and universities of funds. This has led to increased privatization of arenas, libraries, campuses and buildings as municipalities look for short-term fixes that, in reality, will cost them more in the long run by putting taxpayers’ dollars into private profits. Publicly delivered services have been constantly proven to provide better service and value.
- Contracting out and competitive bidding in the public sector has driven down wages and resulted in loss of benefits and jobs for workers.
- Power generation continues to be privatized; the Liberals are also encouraging renewable green power sources to be built by private corporations.

THE PARTIES – REPORT CARD

Conservatives

- Contracted out vast numbers of public sector jobs to lowest bidders; aggressively anti-public sector
- In favour of private for-profit health care and funding private religious schools

Liberals

- Underfunding of front line workers leading to job losses; precarious work in all public sectors
- Encouraging contracting out and privatization of services with increases in P3 projects
- Have done nothing to reverse the privatization of hydro electric power

NDP

- Champion of publicly funded and delivered services
- Clear about its commitment to public power generation and delivery, public water, public infrastructure and other programs
- Will ensure that government funds go into public services, not privatization and Bay Street profits

CUPE ONTARIO’S POSITION

Only the NDP is a champion of publicly funded and delivered services.