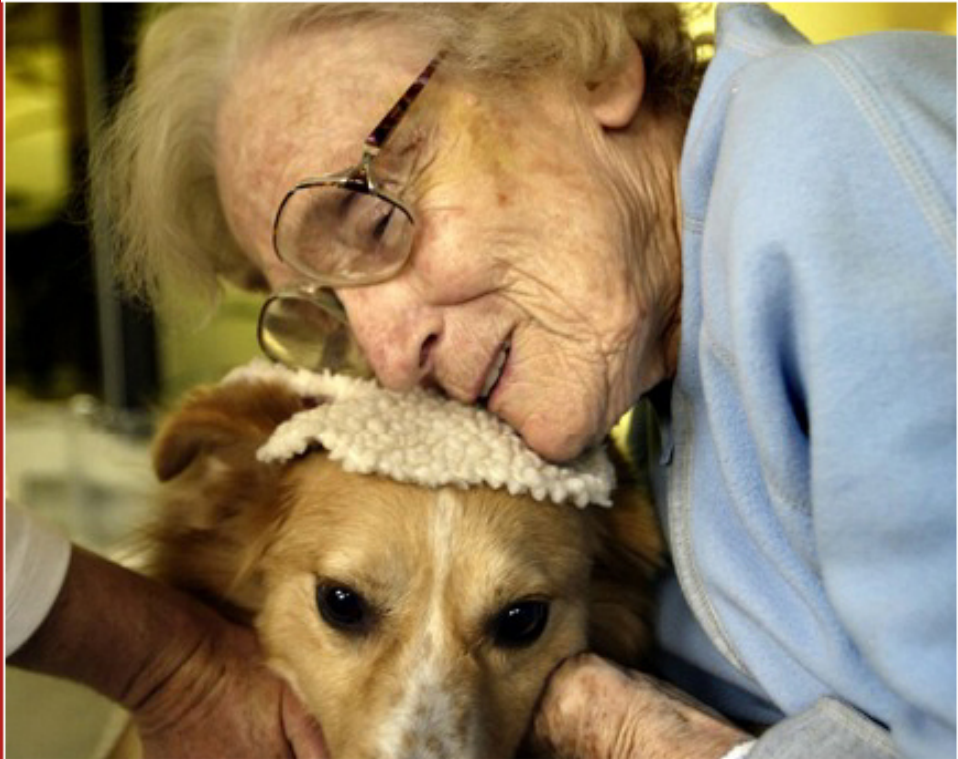


# HEALTHCARE NEWS

Dalton McGuinty promised a regulation guaranteeing our frail and elderly minimum standards of care in long-term care facilities. On June 16, the Minister of Health announced the Sharkey report, which recommends no minimum standards of care.



## Liberals Break Promise No long-term care standards

Ontario's seniors in long-term care homes, their families and front-line staff were let down again by Ontario's health minister who this week failed to introduce a regulated minimum standard of hands-on-care when he released yet another report on conditions and care levels in long-term care facilities.

"Seniors' in homes whose average age is 82 don't have time to wait for the minister to make the right decision.

Introducing a 3.5 hour hands-on care standard with the report was a golden opportunity to improve the care levels and quality of life for 75,000 nursing home residents, and he blew it," said Candace Rennick, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for

CUPE Ontario and a long-term care worker.

Smitherman is ignoring years of appeals by family members, staff and residents who have called for a minimum standard of care to ensure accountability and quality care improvements in these facilities.

While Smitherman admitted that a minimum standard of care is doable today, and could be introduced through regulation, he is opting instead to take another approach and by doing that he is breaking a commitment made by the Premier to set a care standard.

The report is focused on setting guidelines and plans to increase the staffing capacity of the sector

over a period of four years.

While the report recognizes that more hands-on staff is needed, the incremental approach the minister is interested in is a total rejection of provincial standards and enforcements that assumes that nursing homes will work cooperatively on their own to achieve better care.

But CUPE Ontario believes government is responsible for the conditions in our nursing homes. Along with our labour allies and community partners CUPE will continue to fight for a regulated minimum standard of care and we will keep up the pressure until we win 3.5 hours.

# Healthcare Regional Meetings: July

## Major campaigns need your help

City and Date	Meeting Location
Kingston Monday July 7, 2008 10:00 to 2:00pm	CUPE Local 109 Hall 26 James St. Kingston , ON
Toronto Tuesday July 8, 2008 10:00am – 2:00pm	Marriott By Courtyard 475 Yonge St. Toronto, ON
Windsor Wednesday July 9, 2008 10:00am – 2:00pm	Roseland Golf and Curling Club 455 Kennedy Drive West , Windsor, ON
Sudbury Thursday July 10, 2008 10:00am – 2:00pm	The Quality Inn 390 Elgin St., Sudbury, ON
Dryden Friday July 11, 2008 10:00am – 2:00pm	Best Western 349 Government St., Dryden, ON

CUPE Ontario's healthcare workers are being called to meet in July ( see above schedule) to step up our campaigns in home care, hospitals and long-term care. All locals are urgently requested to attend these meetings.

### Home care

CUPE Ontario has pushed the provincial government to end the competitive bidding system that drags down the salaries of home care workers and hurts the people who receive these services.

In December 2007, the Liberal government announced a temporary stop to the competitive bidding system. At the end of August, the Liberals will likely announce that the competitive bidding system will stay in place; part of their plan to move senior care into the home and to move hospital services into the community.

### Hospitals

Fights against service cuts in hospitals are happening across Ontario as hospital budgets have increased by less than the rate of inflation.

Fights against restructuring projects like the Eastern Ontario labs are also underway.

LHIN-initiated restructuring is picking up speed and threatens the job security of our membership.

### Long-term Care

There has been several years of campaigning by long-term care locals to force the province to re-introduce standards of care which were cut by the Harris government. Dalton McGuinty promised during the 2007 provincial election that he would bring back a minimum standard of care. But on June 16, Minister of Health and Long Term Care George Smitherman announced no regulated standards of care.

Left: Patricia Pitt Anderson, homecare leader, speaks to the media in our May campaign to end competitive bidding.  
Right: Brian Davis and Betty Flood, L. 4375, at Queen's Park announce June 23 demo at Scarborough Centenary Hosp. to protest 220 job cuts at Rouge Valley.

