



The Ford Government's Ongoing Plan to Further Privatize Hospital Services

On January 16, 2023, the Ford government revealed their plan on how they planned to deal with the current crisis in health care.

Premier Ford and Health Minister Sylvia Jones announced that their plan to deal with the unacceptable backlog of surgical and diagnostic procedures was to move them out of public hospitals to private for profit surgical and diagnostic clinics starting with cataract surgery, then expanding to MRIs and CT scans and finally to performing hip and knee replacements. The Premier has also said that this is a **permanent change** that will continue even after the backlog of surgical cases has eased.

Neither Premier Ford nor Health Minister Jones would comment on the “**upselling**” of services which is the practice of offering better products to patients than those covered by OHIP.

COPE Ontario and its members are asking the Ford government to cease and desist from further privatizing vital services now provided by the public hospital system. Such a plan if implemented will lead to more professional and allied health care workers leaving the public health care system and moving to private clinics that will not be affected by **Bill 124**, which caps wages for all public sector workers at one per cent (1%) total wages for a period of three (3) years. Despite Premier Ford's recent statement **that Bill 124** has lapsed, which is incorrect and misleading, as many health care and public sector workers are still affected by **Bill 124**, which in some cases will extend into 2024 and 2025.

The people of Ontario should be genuinely concerned about the Ford government's plan to further privatize public health care services which will lead to the health care system in Ontario being based on one's ability to pay for health care rather than based on a person's needs, as stated in the **Canada Health Act**.

COPE Ontario is asking its members and all Ontarians to personally contact and e-mail Premier Ford's office and their local MPP office to express their opposition to the Ford government's proposed plan for the further privatization of the public hospital system.