

THE RED MENACE

Cobourg's Northumberland Hill Hospital takes a hit

Natalie Mehra Ontario Health Coalition
26 April 2010

A group of concerned citizens traveled more than 100 km from Cobourg to Toronto today to present a petition calling for a halt to service cuts at the Northumberland Hills Hospital – including closure of a diabetes education clinic, the end of all outpatient rehabilitation services and cuts to 26 hospital beds.

There is no public replacement for these services in the entire County of Northumberland. Twenty per cent of 60,000 local residents are seniors. Last year more than 3,000 patients were assisted by the diabetes clinic, while outpatient physiotherapy and occupational therapy had more than 5,500 visits. The homecare system in the area is in deficit and has restricted admissions to homecare. The area also lacks sufficient beds in licensed nursing homes. This already means long waits for care.

“When the rehabilitation clinic is closed there will be no access to OHIP-covered physiotherapy or occupational therapy in the entire County of Northumberland,” said Paul Donnelly. “Many of us have inadequate or no private insurance. We will not be able to afford the high cost of private care.”

“The government is forcing cuts to our hospital beds that will leave frail and elderly patients without appropriate care,” said coalition co chair Peggy Smith. “The Local

Health Integration Network has already admitted they do not have sufficient funding to provide interim support for the beds that are being cut. There will be no savings when these patients end up back in the emergency department.”

“The cuts to the diabetes clinic are short-sighted and will mean more costs for patients with worse health outcomes,” said Linda Cowburn. “If these cuts go through there will be no services for Type 1 diabetics, patients with complex Type 2 diabetes who require insulin, those with insulin pumps, and pregnant women with diabetes. Local doctors have already expressed concern they will have nowhere to refer these patients.”

“Last month’s provincial budget funded hospitals at less than the rate of inflation for the third year in a row, even though Ontario’s hospitals are funded much less than their counterparts across Canada,” noted Natalie Mehra, director of the Ontario Health Coalition. “The cuts proposed in Northumberland Hills are a violation of the Canada Health Act, leaving thousands of patients without reasonable access to vital care. Seniors will be particularly hard hit with what amounts to privatization of their hospital beds and rehab services. **McGuinty must intervene to rectify the situation his government has created.**”



I support big business because big business supports me.

Hospitals cut services but McGuinty smiles and does nothing

President's Message



Fighting the wage freeze

April 13, 2010

Dear sisters and brothers:

The wage freeze the McGuinty government imposed in its 2010 budget must not go unchallenged.

That was the clear message that came out of an April 8 emergency meeting of the OPSEU Executive Board.

By now, most of us know what the freeze is about: Under Bill 16, the Liberal budget bill, non-union workers will see their wages frozen immediately for two years. Employers at union workplaces will be told that they will have no money to fund pay raises.

This is not a pay “freeze,” of course. It is a cut. With inflation projected to average two per cent per year over the next two years, workers are being told to donate four per cent of their wages to fighting the deficit. Or, to put it another way, to work for free one week every year.

This might be easier to handle if, as Finance Minister Dwight Duncan suggested in the budget speech, we really were “all in this together.”

But we’re not, apparently.

There have been lots of headlines lately about all the top managers will still get their “pay for performance” bonuses. What has not been talked about are the massive corporate tax breaks that will boost profits for already-profitable companies like the big banks. These breaks – paid for in part by the wage freeze – will enable companies to pay even bigger bonuses to rich managers who simply don’t need them.

These are the same people who think nothing of paying \$950 a plate to attend a Dalton McGuinty fundraiser.

What are they buying, exactly? We all know. They’re buying access to politicians. They’re buying influence. They’re buying promises of more “business friendly” special treatment ahead.

It is, quite simply, wrong for the Minister of Finance to ask a part-time developmental services worker to take (say) a \$400-a-year pay cut when he himself charges bankers \$400-a-plate to tell him what to do.

To support OPSEU units in bargaining, your regional Executive Board Members will be organizing protests at Liberal fundraisers. We’ll be taking a strong position on Bill 16. And we’ll be demanding a new, higher tax bracket that gives Ontario’s wealthiest earners a chance to pay their share.

Please join the fightback. To find out more, please [contact the Board members](#) in your region.

In solidarity,

Warren (Smokey) Thomas,
President

Ontario Public Service Employees
Union



Liberal Policy Weekend Rally in Collingwood

Send a message to the
Liberals

14 May 2010

Peterborough – Departing at noon Landsdowne Mall – Sears Parking Lot, corner of High and Landsdowne.

Oshawa – Departing at 1:30 – Oshawa Centre, east side where the farmers market is.

Barrie – Departing 3:00 pm – Car Pool Parking Lot, Hwy#400 and Essa Rd.

We should then arrive in Collingwood by 3:30.

The bus will then pick us up at 6pm for the ride home.

Going to Convention?

Come out for

"Shake up the Liberals"

Liberal Madeline Meuilleir's

\$350.00 fundraiser

5 May 2010 5:30

Leaving the Sheridan and going
to 40 King St W

OPSEU's Executive Board Votes to take action on the Ontario Budget

2010-11 ONTARIO BUDGET

Moved by Elliot/Almeida

WHEREAS the 2010 Ontario Budget unjustly scapegoats public sector workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the executive board members organize mobilizing committees in the regions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the committees will mobilize members across all sectors to picket and demonstrate at Liberal fund raising events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the committees will work to earn media to expose how unfair and how unjust the 2010 Liberal Budget is; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT each region be initially funded in the amount of \$5,000

to be drawn from the Contingency Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the executive committee will provide central strategy and plan central actions.

First Vice-President/ Treasurer Rout in the Chair.

A motion was made and withdrawn.

Moved by Grimaldi/Brown – amendment

THAT OPSEU target at least one (1) Liberal riding per region with a goal to

defeat the sitting member, and that the board members in consultation with their members decide the riding.

Our Target in Region 3



**Lou Rinaldi Liberal MPP
Northumberland Quinte**

On Saturday April 24th the Presidents of Region 3 gathered in Orillia and formulated a plan to take action .

**Liberal Policy Weekend
Rally in Collingwood**
Send a message to the Liberals

14 May 2010

Join the
Fightback

FIGHT BACK PAGE

What is happening around the Region

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health : Region 3 Spring Report

Local 331 held a demonstration on March 20, 2010 to protect the quality of mental health provided to our most vulnerable members of society. More and more layoffs and bed closures are hitting not only the families of these patients hard but the members who provide the care needed, and can't keep up.

Hospitals are still facing the same layoff's and bed closures. On March 15, 2010 Northumberland Hospital also held a rally to protest the closure of over 30 beds and nearly the equivalent in jobs. Layoffs will be hitting Peterborough and many other hospitals in Region 3.

www.opseudiablogue.wordpress.com – a website that updates you on the latest in Health Care. The link is also found on the OPSEU website.

OPSEU is fighting back

Take Action Now



SPEAKER, CORPORATE BONUSES SHOULD BE THIS BIG



CORPORATE TAX RATES WILL BE THIS BIG



PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES SHOULD BE THIS BIG



LESS CORPORATE TAX, LESS PUBLIC SECTOR WAGES AND MORE BONUSES

EQUALS LESS SERVICE FOR ONTARIANS...ALL I CAN SAY IS... BRILLIANT



Region 3 Mobilizers in your area

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THE RED MENACE

Newsletter for OPSEU Region 3

Giving you a voice in the fight against the Liberal destruction of this Province

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