

LHIN JOB SECURITY THREATS

The provincial government has informed us that regulations will be in place to facilitate the transfer of some care coordination work to other healthcare organizations on September 1. We have had no assurances whatsoever from any level of government or our employers that there will be any protection of jobs or working conditions for our members working in LHINs.

The new regulations allow the same healthcare organizations that provide home and community care services to also provide care coordination. This is a huge erosion of accountability. Combined with a Conservative plan to reintroduce competitive bidding for homecare services, we expect this will result in a transfer of work to low-pay, for-profit corporations.

This is just the first step in the PC plan to dismember the LHINs.

With the provincial election less than a month away, it is vital that every member, as well as friends and relatives, take action to protect the important work we do.

WRITE TO YOUR MPP

Right now, you can help make this an election priority. The more emails MPPs receive, the more likely there are to take action, too.

Use this link to send a message to your MPP.

cupe.ca/protect-quality-home-and-community-care

WRITE TO YOUR NEWSPAPER

One of the best ways to get public, government and media attention is by writing letters to the editor of local newspapers.

See page two of this sheet for sample letters and instructions on how to submit them to your community newspaper.

ASK QUESTIONS

Ask candidates at local debates and in other forums where they stand on LHIN restructuring and privatization. Media and people from your community will hear their answers in the debates.

See the next page for two sample questions to use at debates and at the door.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Most newspapers allow you to submit a letter to the editor by email. Usually there will be instructions in the "Contact Us" section of their website. Some will have an online form you will have to use. If you have any difficulty, contact Craig Saunders in CUPE Communications (csaunders@cupe.ca).

Letters should be concise and to the point, and ideally will have a personal element and/or connection to your community. Below is a sample letter. Use it, or better yet, use the ideas to create a letter of your own.

Starting on September 1, the Ford government will allow the transfer of care coordination from Local Health Integration Networks to other care providers. This will create a dangerous situation where for-profit home care companies will oversee themselves. It starts the process where women will lose decent jobs in healthcare as the work is transferred to low-wage private companies. The same companies that already can't attract enough staff to provide half the home care visits they're contracted for. We have a healthcare staffing crisis, and the Ford government's plan will only make it worse.

DEBATE QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

The Ford government is privatizing home care again. When the last PC government was in power the 1990s, they introduced contracting out and competitive bidding for home care contracts. This led to privatization, low wages for women home care workers, and breaks in the continuity of care as contracts changed hands. Will you promise to work with the community and home care workers to stop the re-introduction of competitive bidding and work with us to build a fully public, not-for-profit home care system?

QUESTION 2

The Ford government plans to allow the private, for-profit home care companies that provide home care services to also provide care coordination (or oversight) of those services. Today, the oversight is done by public-sector organizations that make sure home care companies are not taking any shortcuts with public money provided for care. This reform will weaken that public oversight. Will you promise to work with the community and home care workers to stop this reform and build with us a fully public, not-for-profit home care system?