

# NEWSBULLETIN

Nurses Week May 6-12 | Administrative Professionals Day April 23

## Protest May 14 at Queen's Park over Funding and Services for Small, Rural, Remote and Northern Hospitals

Small, rural, northern and remote hospitals are under great threat. ERs are routinely closed in many smaller towns.

The entire hospital in Thessalon has been closed. This was the subject of a huge rally there in February. Bracebridge may be facing closure.

May 14 the Ontario Health Coalition will hold a protest at the legislature to demand adequate funding and staffing for these hospitals.

Please attend if you can.



## Throne Speech Promises Private Surgical Centres

The province of Ontario plans to step up its privatization of hospital surgeries. That commitment was contained in the April 15 Speech from the Throne.

Private surgeries are 3x more expensive than surgeries done in a public hospital. They also take badly needed staff from the public hospitals.

The Canadian Medical Journal reported in August that after cataract surgeries had been privatized in Ontario, wealthy people's access to cataract surgery went up by 22%, while middle class and poor people's access fell by 7%.



## Homecare in Turmoil

Homecare staff represented by CUPE held media conferences in April about the crisis in that sector.

Palliative patients are dying at home without painkillers because of supply chain failures.

Homecare is very difficult to get. So many people need it and there are actually very few staff to deliver it.

Wages, pensions, benefits are all very low compared to hospital standards and full-time employment is very difficult to get.

CUPE's homecare workers have kicked off a campaign to demand increases in funding, compensation and staffing.

## Private Surgical Centres

OCHU-CUPE will fight the privatization of hospital surgeries, in partnership with the Ontario Health Coalition and its many partner organizations.

OCHU-CUPE will be organizing MPP rallies around the issue across the province over the next few months.

In addition to being 3 times more expensive than surgeries done in a public hospital, private surgeries come with worse outcomes and bleed scarce staff from our workplaces to staff up private operating rooms.

As surgeries are moved out of hospital, they are effectively de-unionized. Staff in these clinics don't have a union, benefits or a pension. Meanwhile the owners of these surgical centres make huge profits. We cannot afford private surgeries.