

NEWSBULLETIN

Sick Kids Pension Triumph | Privatization of Surgeries | TRI Clerical Unionize

Clerical staff unionize at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (UHN)

CUPE has been certified to represent the clerical staff who work at the many sites of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute of the University Health Network, following a representation vote.

Application by Clerical staff at Trillium Health to Unionize

After a year-long organizing campaign, CUPE has filed an application for a vote of clerical employees at the hospital sites of Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga. This will be a representation vote supervised by the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

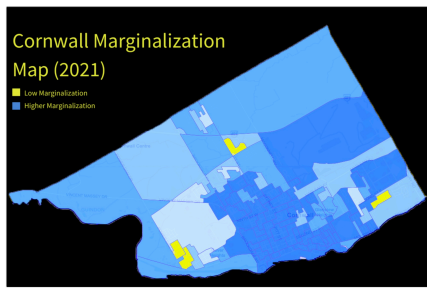


CUPE Local 2816 President Leonora Foster (left) at rally to push Sick Kids Hospital to Join HOOPP

Sick Kids To Join HOOPP. Major Win for CUPE 2816

A 3-year pressure campaign by CUPE local 2816 - representing staff at Sick Kids - has pushed the hospital to join the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP). Sick Kids had its own pension plan, with inferior benefits to HOOPP. Sick Kids had not contributed anything to its employees' pensions for a 26 year period. All the other hospitals in Ontario belong to HOOPP and are contributing significantly to their employees' pensions.

The campaign, led by local president Leonora Foster (above) involved many rallies outside the hospital, advertising and the building of strong alliances with other unions, including the Ontario Nurses Association, OPSEU and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.



Map of Cornwall area, with wealthy people in yellow zones, everyone else in blue

Tour highlights private cataract surgeries give wealthy people much greater access, while cutting it for everyone else

A media tour highlighting that wealthy people in Ontario have 22% more access to for-profit cataract clinics, while it has dropped by up to 9% for everyone else.

Premier Ford has said that he plans that 50% of hospital surgeries, including hips and knees, will be done in for-profit clinics and outside hospitals.

Surgeries in for-profit clinics are 2x more expensive than the same surgery done in a public hospital. These clinics also take precious health care staff away from public hospitals. The tour will visit 15 communities.

November Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Ontario Healthcare

Artificial intelligence (AI) programmes are transforming work in health care, threatening the jobs of clerical employees in particular.

A researcher has been studying AI programmes and their impact in Ontario hospitals and he is completing a report for our membership which includes interviews with local union leaders who have dealt with the impact of programmes like Epic.

Some clerical jobs, like maintaining medical records and medical dicta-typing, have been hit hard as a result of new software. In addition new hardware, like robot cleaners and check-in kiosks pose threats by eliminating work.

A November conference on AI is planned (*see below*).

