

HEALTH CARE

As RTO/ERO members, we are firmly committed to the principles of the Canada Health Act and are aware that it is the mandate of the Provincial government to implement those principles.

Access and Equity

We remain concerned about the continuing discrepancy across the country between wait-time definitions resulting in confusing assessment of a citizen's treatment from one province of Canada to the next.

We applaud the growing commitment to the training of more doctors and we encourage continued efforts by the government to fast track the qualification process for foreign-trained doctors. We also commend the direction to fund the training of more nurse practitioners as a step towards improving health care for disadvantaged districts of Ontario.

Reform, Renewal and Accountability

RTO/ERO believes that the government's introduction of the Family Health Team is a positive step towards chronic disease management and community based health. The establishment of 'Benchmarking' selective critical care wait lists is a first step towards public accountability. Rapid and measurable means of health care improvements must remain high in government priorities.

Affordability and Support

Believing in the concept of an effective health care system, RTO/ERO encourages the cutting of waste, as opposed to simply focusing on cost reduction measures. We believe that continuing to de-list health services will cost the individual senior more in net dollars. As well, seniors between the ages of 50 and 65 who need de-listed services and who are unable to afford them, may be denied treatment.

Proposed Action Plan

RTO/ERO supports anti-smoking legislation and concerted efforts to reduce health care costs through promotion of good health, early cancer and heart disease detection. We support the emphasis on healthy lifestyles through provincial public health and educational programs.

This direction will enable long term sustainable planning and funding by ultimately significantly towering future health care costs.

Questions

1. What is your government/party's plan to alleviate the wait time crisis?
2. What plans does your government/party have to improve the access to acceptable health care for Northern and rural residents?
3. What steps have you taken to ensure that Ontario citizens are engaged in public deliberations about health care plan changes?
4. How will your government/party deal with the critical challenge of health care for people who are below the poverty line?

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