

Ottawa Health Coalition Encourages Community Engagement- Raises Concerns Over P3 Development Model

The Ottawa Health Coalition is a local affiliate of the Ontario Health Coalition. We are a volunteer led group of health care advocates, health care workers, students, seniors, retirees, unions, faith and community groups who work to protect and improve our **public health care system**. We gather and share information and encourage rigorous public discussion and debate to contribute to democratic public health care policy development.

We are very pleased, therefore, that the new Civic Campus development team is opening this up to community discussion -- a project of this magnitude and significance for our city deserves nothing less.

We are also happy to note that the planning for the new Civic will be based on **a serious assessment of future needs for services** in Ottawa and that there will be public discussions around that assessment process. We would also expect, in accordance with the principles of the Canada Health Act, that the need for medically necessary services be delivered by our single tier public health care system.

We are also pleased to note that the new hospital will provide a significant increase in the number of beds as occupancy rates in Ontario and Ottawa hospitals have been extraordinarily high for years.

We are very concerned, however, by suggestions that the new Civic Campus will be developed under the Public Private Partnership model. The Ontario Government continues, in the face of considerable evidence to the contrary, including reports from the **Auditor General**, to promote this development model that has been shown to cost the province billions of dollars more on already established P3 developments and deliver less in services. We worry that the P3 model would undermine the ability of a future hospital to meet its own planned for objectives, given the considerable work that has been done over the years that demonstrates the problems with this development model.

We note that the recent collapse of the multinational consortium **Carillion** only underlines the risks of private sector development of what should remain fully publicly funded and administered institutions. **See more on Carillion here.**

We ask all concerned to consider **the work that the Ontario Health Coalition** has compiled over the years on the problems of P3's, and look also at **this recent report done by the CCPA.**

It should also be noted that a **recent report in the Toronto Star**, demonstrates that various government claims about scarce resources for public institutions and services is based on years of declining contributions to revenues by corporations, a trend they argue in a follow up editorial **should be reversed**. Such a reversal would lead to an end to the debilitating cuts to our public health care system and enable the proper restoration of single tier health care services in our city and province, and also enable adequate funding for government programs to alleviate pressures on the health care system by way of known social determinants of health produced by increasing inequality and poverty.

We hope to offer additional resources soon on **our website**, and would like to thank TOH for opening up this discussion to the community.