

CUPE 1933

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The federal government has a plan to dismantle and privatise our Medicare system.

They have off-loaded most of their healthcare responsibilities to the provinces, and abolished their capacity to play a coordinating role through the now defunct Health Council of Canada.

The Harper government has chosen to ignore the creeping privatisation of health care and blocked the creation of new Medicare programs like pharmacare or enforcement of national standards that would ensure all Canadians are treated the same.

Soon we will face an even bigger threat.

The federal-provincial agreement that guarantees public health care funding expires in 2014. It is called the Health Accord. The Conservatives' have said that they plan to decrease federal transfers to provinces by \$36 billion before the end of 2024.

In Nova Scotia, this will mean cuts to our public system of \$902 million over the next 10 years. That will add to the challenges we are facing meeting the demand for medical procedures, maintaining the number of hospital beds in our province, and ensuring that rural areas are properly served! We cannot afford these drastic cuts to health care.

CUPE is responding to this threat by launching a nation-wide campaign that will pressure the Federal government to renegotiate a fair Health Accord. We need to make sure that Nova Scotians have access to the same high quality health care services as those in other Canadian provinces.

Our campaign will be rolling out in three provinces in 2013! In Nova Scotia the two-week campaign starts September 22nd and ends October 5th.

Working with the Council of Canadians, the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network and other allies, CUPE will be organizing workshops, public outreach campaigns, and media-grabbing events including the Shout Out for Health Care Town Hall October 3rd from 6pm to 8pm at the Blockhouse Fire Hall, Blockhouse and a Community Festival for Public Medicare October 5th from 2pm to 4pm at Shipyard Landing, Bridgewater .

The Conservatives' privatization by stealth strategy hurts smaller and aging provinces like NS the most. The federal government is not living up to their responsibility to Nova Scotians. We cannot let this continue.

It's time the Feds paid their fair share of the health care bill- at least 25%. The federal government must negotiate a new Health Accord with the premiers that will meet the needs of Nova Scotians, treat everyone in Canada fairly, and provide the care that seniors require to remain healthy and age with dignity.

Join us in the fight to save our public health care! Sign up for a workshop in a location near you the Town Hall or the Community Festival!

Nova Scotia Health Accord Workshop Description and Schedule:

CUPE National is working with allies across the country to run a health care campaign. Our goal is to pressure the federal government to renegotiate a 2014 Health Accord with the provinces. A strong agreement with clear guidelines for funding and national standards is vitally important to defend our public health care system.

The Health Accord campaign has at its core a series of workshops for members who want to be a part of the fight to stand up for Medicare. These workshops will communicate to CUPE members and our allies how the Harper government is wrecking health care and allowing privatization to creep into our system.

Your support and participation is critical if we are to be successful in pressuring the federal government to renegotiate a 2014 Health Accord.

We are asking CUPE members and our allies to volunteer to participate in our workshops, Town Hall and Community Festival. At the workshops you will take away the following information and skills:

- A better understanding of the 2014 Health Accord and why having a new Federal-Provincial agreement is so important.
- A better understanding of the federal government's points of weakness. For example, how we can mobilize the provinces to pressure the Feds, and also how we can mobilize the public to call for a universal Pharmacare program.
- Learn about how to lobby elected officials and talk to the public about this issue.

The federal conservatives have been stealthily and relentlessly working to dismantle Canada's public health care system. We need to expose the federal government's actions and draw the public's attention and anger to this issue! All residents of Canada need a new Accord and a new federal government!

Join us to protect, strengthen and expand public health care! This campaign is about saving our Medicare system while building strong community alliances that we need to get a progressive federal government elected in 2015.

List of Workshops, Date, Time and Location:

DATE: Monday September 23rd

TIME: 6pm-9pm

LOCATION: Blockhouse Fire Hall, Blockhouse

DATE: Tuesday September 24th

TIME: 6pm-9pm

LOCATION: Best Western, Bridgewater

DATE: Wednesday September 25th

TIME: 6pm-9pm

LOCATION: Shelburne Community Centre, Shelburne

DATE: Thursday September 26th

TIME: 6pm-9pm

LOCATION: Best Western, Liverpool

DATE: Tuesday October 1st

TIME: 6pm-9pm

LOCATION: Lunenburg Fire Hall, Lunenburg

DATE: Wednesday October 2nd

TIME: 6pm-9pm

Location: Tantallon Public Library 3646 Hammonds Plains Road

Please note we will be putting what we learn into action on Sept 28th and Oct 5th through a community outreach leaflet drop. Workshop participants are asked to keep their schedules free those days between 9am-1pm, if possible.

Thank you in advance for registering for one of these workshops, the Town Hall and or the Community Festival at 2014novascotia@gmail.com

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me anytime at (902) 521-7782

In Solidarity,

Dianne Frittenburg
CUPE 1933 President

