



## Provincial Election 2007



### Single-Tier Health Care

There have always been groups in our society who have opposed single-tier public health care. These groups believe that the two-tier US model which is based on the ability of the individual user to pay for needed services and excludes millions of Americans who have no health coverage is preferable to the current system in our province and country which addresses the needs of Ontarians and Canadians. Our present single-tier system must be both defended and improved in order to address the changing needs of the population.

On May 2, 2007 a charter challenge against the single-tier public health care in our province was announced. The lawsuit, conducted in the name of one Ontarian, challenges the province's *Health Insurance Act*, the *Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act*, and the *Healthcare Accessibility Act*. It seeks to have the court order the province to allow extra billing by doctors and companies. The allegation is that this Ontarian was diagnosed with a possible brain tumour and told that he would have to wait 4 1/2 months for a MRI. Instead of waiting he went to Buffalo where apparently an MRI confirmed that the tumour was malignant. The allegation is that this Ontarian was almost killed by the health care system.

The Calgary-based Canadian Constitution Foundation (CCF) a right-wing conservative advocacy organization (and registered charity) uses charter challenges and "public education" to promote its vision. The Foundation has strong links with such groups as the Fraser Institute and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. Their real agenda is to dismantle the single-tier system and to impose the US model on Canadians and Ontarians.

In addition to these challenges, the current Liberal government has undermined the single-tier health care system by de-listing services previously covered by OHIP, such as chiropractic treatment and eye exams for those citizens aged 20 to 65. It has also undermined the single-tier health care system by failing to act to stem the proliferation of private clinics for those who have the ability to pay for services.

#### **Ask your Local Candidates:**

Will you publicly support our single-tier health care system and publicly oppose moves to impose the US model of health care on Ontarians through such tactics as support for two-tier and extra-billing for needed services?

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