

ON HEALTH CARE

April 2006

UPCOMING ONTARIO HEALTH COALITION P3 PLEBISCITES

Building on the success of the recent P3 plebiscite in Hamilton (March 25), two more have been announced for the communities of **Sarnia** and **Sault Ste. Marie** on **Saturday, May 13**. Please encourage activists in these communities to be involved in these campaigns.

Below is all available contact information:

SARNIA

Campaign Office: 120 N. Mitton Street Sarnia (across from Shoppers Drug Mart)
Telephone: (519) 344-8828
E-mail: sarniahealthcoalition@hotmail.com.
Campaign Manager: Lynda Gibb

For more information please contact: Ray Fillion, President, Sarnia & District Labour Council (519) 542-2375 (LC) or info@sdlc-sarnia.ca.

SAULT STE. MARIE

Campaign Office: 723 Queen Street East (across from Liberal MPP's office)
E-mail: ssmcoalition@hotmail.com.
Campaign Manager: Jocelyn Trowbridge

For more information please contact: Gary Premo, President, Sault Ste. Marie & District Labour Council (705) 759-4945 (USW, Local 2251) or ssm_labour_council@hotmail.com.

ONTARIO HEALTH COALITION

Telephone: (416) 441-2502
E-mail: ohc@sympatico.ca.
Provincial Co-ordinator: Natalie Mehra

These campaigns are useful contributions to the political education and fight back strategies of challenging and defeating the McGuinty government's policy of imposing P3s on the people of Ontario.

/...see over

P3s AND THE ONTARIO BUDGET

Hugh Mackenzie from the Ontario Alternative Budget notes in "*Setting the stage for 2007-8: A comment on the 2006-7 Ontario Budget*" (available from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives www.policyalternatives.ca)

"Accounting, Transparency, P3s and Capital Financing

The government talks incessantly about transparency in Ontario's finances. Its latest transparency enhancing initiative is to consolidate the accounts of hospitals, school boards and community colleges into the provincial budget. This is the third year in a row that substantial changes in accounting have been introduced at budget time, making it difficult for Ontarians to compare the figures from budget to budget. And for the first time in more than a decade of changes in provincial government accounting practices in Ontario, the government has chosen not to provide re-stated figures for previous years.

That means it is impossible to compare this year's budget figures with figures for any previous budget, including the original 2005-6 budget introduced last May.

One interesting effect of the accounting change, however, is that Ontario can now amortize its capital expenditures on hospitals, elementary and secondary schools and community colleges on the same basis as it now amortizes expenditures on provincial highways. And by enabling the government to spread its capital financing costs over time rather than accounting for them all at once, the consolidation of accounts for hospitals, school boards and community colleges, in turn, eliminates the only shred of a political justification for using outrageously expensive P3s to finance these institutions' infrastructure investments."

PLEASE POST