

Provincial  
Election  
Vote  
June 12!

# K-W RESIDENTS VOTE



**Poverty Free  
Kitchener-Waterloo**

Poverty Elimination Framework

Support to All Low-income People

## Improving Health for All

Rising inequality and declining health are a common theme. Working-poor, people on social assistance, seniors, youth, Aboriginal people and newcomers have all been reported to experiencing serious difficulties in accessing both healthy living necessities and health care. New regulations in January 2014 cut more local hospital services and contracted these out to private clinics. Home care funding is not keeping pace with the increase of patients offloaded from hospitals. With the Federal Government cut to the Interim Health Program supporting refugees and in not renewing the Health Accord with the provinces, Ontario will have to invest even more to sustain and improve our current health system.

The Ontario Liberal Party promises health and dental benefits for children in low-income families, increased support for children's treatment centres, and \$300 million in community health infrastructure including increased funding for mental health and addictions, free vaccinations and newborn screening, and community-driven programs via Community Hubs. The NDP promises expanded dental benefits for children from low-income households, 24-hour Family Health Clinics and an additional \$15 million per year for student nutrition programs. The PCs promise an enhanced focus on chronic care, expanded home care and long-term care availability, and incorporation of mental health into the health care system, but with no funding numbers attached.

## Accessible Public Health Care

The following measures at the provincial level would help Ontarians access health care:

- Raise the cap on Discretionary Benefits to \$15 per person. These benefits cover many health-related items such as dental devices, health-related devices and vision care.
- Guarantee all residents of Ontario a primary care provider, by increasing the number of doctors, expanding the scope of practice for nurses, nurse practitioners and pharmacists, and opening more 24-hour community health clinics.
- Provide affordable home care for low-income seniors and others with chronic care needs, and expand the availability of subsidized long-term care in the community.
- Expand public provision and limit private sector, fee-for-service provision of health care to ensure access and affordability for all of health care, prescription drugs and dental care.

### Ask your candidates:

- What will your party do to stop further privatization of health care services?
- How will your party work to improve affordable access to quality health resources & services?
- How will your party improve access to long-term care and reduce wait times?

### Resources:

The Wellesley Institute: <http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com>

The Ontario Health Coalition: <http://www.web.net/ohc>



**Social Planning Council**  
of Kitchener-Waterloo  
**Community Information Centre**  
of Waterloo Region

How, where, when & why to vote  
Issues worth voting for  
[www.waterlooregion.org/election-ontario-2011](http://www.waterlooregion.org/election-ontario-2011)

This fact sheet was adapted from a series produced by Social Planning Toronto.