

Public Health Care
Count me in!

Action

CUPE's National Campaign to protect public health care

At the November 2001 National Convention, members decided unanimously to take on one of the biggest fights facing CUPE members and their families – to protect and improve our public health care system.

CUPE is putting the full strength of the union into this most urgent campaign. Our public health care system is worth fighting for and we can win!

Why?

- Not-for-profit health care is under unprecedented attack
- Privatization of health services has now reached epidemic proportions and we need to act
- Some provinces are taking advantage of the federal government's failure to enforce the Canada Health Act to wreck our public system
- The Romanow report leaves the door open to for-profit health care and P3s
- Some employers and governments are moving to privatize food, laundry, housekeeping and other support work
- The federal government has still not made any move to stop private profiteering in public health care
- To force the government to implement **our** vision of public health care

Who?

- Mobilize all CUPE members – especially health care workers
- With coordination of the National Health Care Issues Committee, provincial divisions and local/workplace committees
- Other unions, activists and community groups

What?

- **Ensure public delivery of all health services.** Public funding of health care is not enough. Not one cent should go to for-profit services. A line cannot be drawn between essential and 'ancillary' services
- **Stop privatization wherever and whenever it takes place.** CUPE is actively supporting provincial and local campaigns against privatization threats
- **Force the federal government** to strengthen Canada's medicare system by:
 - increasing federal funding
 - stopping for-profit delivery of any kind
 - expanding public health insurance coverage to cover prescription drugs and home care
 - exempting health care from all trade deals

How?

- Provincial campaigns to mobilize as many CUPE members as possible through a massive worker-to-worker canvass and other actions
- Communicating with CUPE members – one on one, at meetings, in our communities
- Alert health care workers, especially health support workers to the threats of contracting out
- CUPE National and provincial divisions will set out action plans to implement all aspects of the campaign
- Locals and workplaces are being encouraged to set up campaign committees to mobilize members to take action to defend Medicare
- Participating in actions with like-minded organizations to alert the public (and our members) to the urgency of our efforts
- Strengthening bargaining strategies to protect our collective agreements and avert contracting out
- Workplace votes to escalate actions as necessary

Visit cupe.ca and read FastFACTS for news of actions taking place nationally and in your region.