

From Ontario Council Pre-Budget Submission, Jan. 27, 2019.

HEALTH CARE:

Like all areas of Canada and the developed world, Ontario is facing a demographic crisis. The baby-boomers are now 72. As of 2017, 16.7% of the population was 65 and older¹.

Over the years, CFUW has officially supported, through our grassroots resolution process, a government supported health care system that ensures “quality health care and preventive health care programs which are universal, accessible, comprehensive, portable and publicly administered and that all reforms to the health care system incorporate these five principles of Medicare as outlined in the Canada Health Act (1984)”. These policies were extended in later years to advocate for quality home care with training, certification and appropriate remuneration, for pharmacare, and for mental health services.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information has pointed out some areas of concerns for Ontario in particular a slightly higher than average Administrative Expenses 2016-2017, while at the same time having a \$600.00 difference below the rest of Canada in the cost of a standard hospital stay.

The Auditor General in the 2016, 2017 and the 2018 tracked issues with the large community hospitals (2016), the Community Health Centres (2017), and Health Quality Ontario (2018)².

Dealing with major issues like community home care, Alternate Level-of-Care, wait times, both for hospital Emergency Departments but also for bone replacements that become almost normal with an aging population, will stress finances. It is hoped that studies like the ones quoted above plus the studies done by the Premier’s Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine will give direction.

¹ Canadian Institute for Health Information, Your Health System - Ontario
https://yourhealthsystem.cihi.ca/hsp/indepth?lang=en&_ga=2.224376531.937627648.1548620946-826897403.1548620946#/theme/C5001/2/

² Auditor-General of Ontario <http://www.auditor.on.ca/>