

Local Executive Committee Members Attend Protest Rally in Toronto in Response to Provincial Budget

By Larry Thompson

On April 7 members of Local 329 attended a protest rally organized by the Ontario Health Coalition in Toronto. This protest was in response to the McGuinty Government's plan to reform Ontario's health care system. This plan includes closing entire hospitals and reducing services. Patients will rely more on clinics with user fees and travel greater distances to appointments. Level of patient care will be reduced. Big expensive hospitals are being built across Ontario but the McGuinty Government has no money for patient services.



The source of hospital funding is changing. Hospitals will receive funding by a scheme of "Payment by Results". This means that every item of treatment delivered will be marketed. Hospitals will compete on select services at the lowest cost. Procedures that have little financial gain will be cut as meeting the budgetary goals become the focus of the "Independent Sector

Treatment Centres." An example is hospital emergency department closures.



This restructuring will create job instability for hospital staff and support services. How can we deliver quality services in ongoing restructuring? Many of us fear of having our earnings reduced or even losing our jobs. We as health care providers take pride in our service to our patients. Ontario hospitals are the best in Canada. Don't let the McGuinty Government privatize our health care and put Ontarians at risk.