

Ontario Health Coalition Update

Canadians want federal leadership in health care: National day of action starts campaign for new Health Accord

(Ottawa) - The Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) will launch a national day of action March 31st to kick off a campaign for a new Health Accord. Events are organized in over 40 communities across Canada, including a luncheon in Ottawa with Dr. Jeff Turnbull - Past-President of the Canadian Medical Association, and a concert in Toronto with several Canadian artists - including Shirley Douglas.

"We are sounding the alarm to alert Canadians to the fact that the Harper government is not providing federal leadership in health care. This will lead to a fragmentation of services across the country, and access to care will depend on where you live and your ability to pay," says Michael McBane, Executive Director of the CHC.

The Canadian Health Coalition will follow up the day of action with a Medicare Tour, visiting eight cities across the country and meeting with citizens at community events, public forums, and workshops. The tour features Alex Himelfarb, former Clerk of the Privy Council to three prime ministers, and Wendell Potter, former VP of Communications for Cigna, one of the largest American health insurers.

For more information see:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/258678364292244/270445723115508/>

A list of national events occurring on March 31st can be found at:

<http://healthcoalition.ca/map/>

March 31st Events in Ontario

1. *Ottawa* -- Contact: Marlene Rivier, Ottawa Health Coalition, marlene_rivier@rogers.com, 613-222-8392

* Funeral procession for the Health Accord on Parliament Hill over the lunch hour, starting at noon. Bring alarm clocks to make lots of noise!*

2. *Ottawa* -- Contact: Erin Sirett, medicarelobby@gmail.com, 613-688-4973 ext. 2
*Luncheon featuring Jeff Turnbull, MD, Chief of Staff, The Ottawa Hospital (advance registration

required).*

3. *Kingston* -- Contact: Ross Sutherland, Ontario Health Coalition, elbe@web.net, 613-532-7846

Honk for Healthcare: A car "parade" downtown. Meet at the Tourist Information office at the bottom of Fort Henry Hill at noon. Bring noisemakers!

4. *Oshawa* -- Contact: Charlie Courneyea, Ontario Health Coalition, wccourneyea@gmail.com, 416-557-5935 or Trish McAuliffe, tmcauliffe@rogers.com, 905-436-0665

Sound the Alarm at the office of Colin Carrie, Conservative MP for Oshawa, at noon (Lord Simcoe Place, 57 Simcoe Street South, Suite 2B, Oshawa).

5. *Scarborough* -- Contact: Kingsley Kwok, Scarborough Health Coalition, mercury28@gmail.com, 416-835-3377

Sound the Alarm at the office of Roxanne James, Conservative MP, Monday March 24th from 3-6:00 p.m. (1450 Midland Ave, Suite 211, Scarborough).

6. *St. Catharines* -- Contact: Sue Hotte, Ontario Health Coalition, suehotte@yahoo.ca, 905-932-1646

Sound the Alarm at the office of Rick Dystra, Conservative MP, at 4:00 p.m. (61 Geneva Street).

7. *Toronto* -- Contact: David Craig, davidscraig@rogers.com, 416-271-3030
*"Artists for Health Care" presents: Holler For Health Care!

Join

actress Shirley Douglas (Tommy's daughter) and Tony Award winner Brent Carver along with a star-studded line up of singers and comedians including

Ted Dykstra (Two Pianos, Four Hands), Nora McLellan (Shaw Festival) and Nancy White (CBC radio satirical songstress) for an evening of merry maladies and malady melodies to protest the end of federal leadership in Canadian health care. WHEN: 8:00 pm WHERE: Trinity St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St W, Toronto (1 block west of Spadina). Tickets (\$12-25): [CLICK HERE](#)

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Group tickets (10 or more): [CLICK HERE](#) .*

8. *Toronto* -- Contact: Kim Johnston, Ontario Health Coalition, ohc@sympatico.ca, 416-441-2502

Rally to Sound the Alarm and HONK FOR HEALTHCARE. Meet at Queen's Park at 12 noon then people will march alongside taxis (honking) down University Ave to Dundas Street.

9. *Brampton* -- Contact: Pat McGrail, activist@taxlite.org, 647-724-8530

"Sound the Alarm" demonstration from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Bring your signs, flags, alarm clocks, bells, horns and pots and pans. Meet us in front of Tim Horton's at Shoppers' World (497 Main St. S - Hwy 10 & Steeles). See the Facebook event page for more details.

10. *North Bay* -- Contact: Henri Giroux, CUPE, 705 471-7746, hgiroux1@hotmail.com

Demonstration at 12:15pm at the Constituency Office of Jay Aspin, MP (133 Main Street West).

11. *Orillia* -- Contact: Kim Johnston, Ontario Health Coalition, ohc@sympatico.ca, 416-441-2502

Sound the Alarm rally with alarm clocks, bells, horns and pots and pans at noon at office of Bruce Santon, Conservative MP for Simcoe North (575 West Street South, Willow Court Plaza, Unit 12 Orillia).

12. *Sarnia* -- Contact: Arlene Patterson, Ontario Health Coalition, arlene.patterson13@gmail.com, 519-542-1895

*Sound the Alarm rally with alarm clocks, bells, horns and pots and pans at

12 noon outside the office of Conservative MP, Patricia Davidson (1000 Finch Drive., Sarnia).*

13. *Sault Ste. Marie* -- Contact: Kim Johnston, Ontario Health Coalition, ohc@sympatico.ca, 416-441-2502

Sound the Alarm demonstration with alarm clocks, bells and pots and pans at 11am outside the office of Conservative MP Bryan Hayes (369 Queen Street).

14. *Thunder Bay* -- Contact: Jules Tupker, Thunder Bay Health Coalition, jtupker@tbaytel.net, 807-577-5946

Sound the alarm at City Hall (500 Donald St. E) at noon - with speeches from municipal leaders. From there we will march to local MPP Bill Mauro's office and then to local MP John Rafferty's office for a final speech. Bring your red umbrella!

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