

Template Opinion Editorial

Contact your local newspaper and ask to submit the following opinion editorial. You can sign off with your name and position but leave out information that may identify your specific workplace.

[Insert community] nurses urge community to vote for better public health care

By **[insert name, professional designation]**

Voters across Canada and here in **[insert community]** will head to the polls on April 28, many focused on punishing new U.S. tariffs and Canada's sovereignty. Yet there are vital issues that will be decided in this election that will have an equally major impact on the quality of our lives.

As a **[insert designation]** in this community and a member of the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA), I strongly believe that every Canadian deserves a universal, strong, publicly funded and publicly delivered health-care system.

Make no mistake, our public health care is at stake in this federal election. Chronic underfunding, staffing shortages and private influence are making it harder for Canadians to get the care they need. Federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has made it clear he would cut national pharmacare, dental care and sell off our public health-care system to private, for-profit corporations.

This would have enormously negative impacts on so many of us. Cutting the very programs and services that improve the health and lives of so many citizens is not only unnecessary but downright heartless. Is this the kind of Canada we want?

[Insert any relevant facts on local health-care issues]

The good news is that our health care can improve, here and across the country. The federal government has the resources and responsibility to improve access to public health care.

In this federal election, all of us must hold our candidates' feet to the fire to demand they commit to improving the public health-care system, improving access by fully funding it, and improving the quality of care by fixing the severe nursing shortage we are experiencing in all health-care sectors.

Imagine a health-care system in our community where everyone has access to timely, high-quality public care. Imagine a health-care system with enough nurses and health-care workers to provide the care you need and deserve, close to home.

At a time when the basic necessities are slipping out of reach of so many Canadians, one thing that must and can remain accessible is universal health care.

Our health-care system was built on the belief that everyone should have access to care, regardless of where you live or how much you make.

Your nurses and health-care professionals strongly believe this and work tirelessly to provide that care. Let's not let it slip through our fingers – nurses are voting for health care. Will you?