

# CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND CAMPAIGNS



2023-24

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

## As the health crisis worsens – the Canadian Health Coalition takes action!

Dear colleagues and friends –

The past year has seen unprecedented challenges to our public health system, and the need for public advocacy organizations like the Canadian Health Coalition has never been greater.

People are struggling to find family doctors, pay for their medications, and access essential health care services such as safe long-term care.

Conservative governments are using public dollars to privatize health care to private, for-profit health care companies, draining our hospitals of urgently needed staff and putting patients at the mercy of profit-hungry corporations.

As a result, today in early 2024, pollsters tell us that health care has moved up as a first-tier national issue of concern, overtaking economic worries that dominated last year.

The Canadian Health Coalition has met this challenge head-on with local organizing, community engagement, and tough face-to-face lobbying with decision-makers in Ottawa.

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2023/24 annual report for the Canadian Health Coalition.

Founded in 1979, our organization's members work to defend and improve our public health care system. We comprise citizens, frontline health care workers' unions, community groups, students, and public health experts.

Our Health and Hope 2025 campaign was established to achieve the full delivery of health care commitments made in the 2022 Liberal-NDP Confidence and Supply Agreement before its conclusion in 2025: public dental care, universal pharmacare, frontline health care investments, and safe long-term care.

Last year we celebrated major federal health care investment and the Canadian Dental Care Plan. This year we attended the press conference on Parliament Hill announcing the historic introduction of the Government Bill C-64, the *Pharmacare Act*.

Together our members released a hard-hitting joint statement celebrating the introduction of the *Pharmacare Act*, and pledged to continue the fight for full pharmacare as envisioned in the 2019 Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare, led by Dr. Eric Hoskins.

**Read** Canadian Health Coalition members welcome the introduction of the *Pharmacare Act* (<https://www.healthcoalition.ca/canadian-health-coalition-members-welcome-the-introduction-of-the-pharmacare-act/>)

Our small organization with its handful of experienced and skilled staff members has accomplished so much using our members' generous financial contributions.

In 2023/24 we spent more money than ever before defending and expanding Medicare, and we reached an unprecedented 2 million people through our new digital campaigns promoting public health care and opposing privatization. Our annual lobby in Ottawa topped all expectations, too.

We worked with allies and provincial health coalitions to make the movement stronger, and we welcomed the Canadian Association of University Teachers and Citizens for Public Justice as new coalition members.

Like you, I am concerned about the future political direction of Canada with an election on the horizon.

I hope that you will continue to support the Canadian Health Coalition. This is our moment to put protecting and expanding Medicare squarely on the political agenda before voters go to the polls in 2025.

I am grateful to the incredible members of the coalition and our devoted Board members – because it will take all of us working together to successfully confront the voices of privatization and profit, and to champion the needs of everyone in Canada for accessible health care.

Thank you for everything you do for public health care.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Worsfold, RN,  
Chairperson



# STOP PRIVATIZATION, HEALTH COALITIONS TELL PREMIERS



The Canadian Health Coalition, Manitoba Health Coalition and allies sent a strong message to the Premiers meeting in Winnipeg, in July 2023.

# FORMER HEALTH MINISTER JOINS CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION'S CALL FOR PHARMACARE



Returning MPs were greeted by an impactful press conference and ad campaign for pharmacare, including former federal Health Minister Jane Philpott in Ottawa, in September 2023.

## END THE CRISIS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH MINISTERS TOLD



Carl Pursey, president of the PEI Federation of Labour (centre, speaking), is joined by the Canadian Health Coalition, PEI Health Coalition and the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, calling on health ministers to reign in private, for-profit agencies and improve working conditions in public health care at their meeting in Charlottetown, in October 2023.

# CHALLENGING HEALTH CARE PRIVATIZERS



The Canadian Health Coalition, allies, and provincial health coalitions challenged pro-privatization meetings organized by the Canadian Medical Association in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Halifax, in fall 2023.

# TAKING OUR MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT HILL

The annual Canadian Health Coalition Hill Lobby drew over one hundred frontline health workers and activists to meet with Parliamentarians in Ottawa, in February 2024.



Health and Hope Lobby participants in Ottawa on February 12, 2024.





John Major

Canadian Health Coalition lobbyists honoured the late Nell Toussaint and her struggle for universal health care at a reception in the Speakers Lounge in Parliament on February 13, 2024. Left-to-right: Aubrey Gonsalves, CUPE’s Diversity Vice-President representing Black and racialized workers, Greg Fergus, Speaker of the House of Commons and Liberal MP for Hull—Aylmer, Whendeann Gittens, Nell Toussaint’s niece, Arielle Kayabanga, Liberal MP for London-West, Carol Hughes, NDP MP for Algoma—Manitoulin—Kapuskasing, Jason MacLean, NUPGE Secretary-Treasurer and Canadian Health Coalition, and Marie-Hélène Gaudreau, Bloc MP for Laurentides—Labelle.



John Major

Left-to-right: Mandi Ayers, a laboratory technologist/manager in Haida Gwaii, Kelly Block, Conservative MP for Carlton Trail—Eagle Creek, Mary Rymal, a personal support worker at a long-term care facility in Ontario, Genny Goodyear, Vice-President of the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees’ Union (SGEU) Health Sector, and Jenalle Mason, a pharmacy technician from Alberta.



**MEDIA COVERAGE**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION 2023-2024

**We comprise frontline health care workers' unions,  
community groups, and public health care experts.**

## Executive

**Pauline Worsfold, RN**, Chair, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU)

**Siobhán Vipond**, Vice-Chair, Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)

**Vanessa Gruben**, (Legal) Co-Treasurer

**Rita Morbia**, Co-Treasurer, Inter Pares

**Julie White**, Secretary, Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC)

## Board Members

**Pat Armstrong**, PhD (Research)

**Mary Boyd**, PEI Health Coalition

**Ryan Campbell**, Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC)

**Barb Cape**, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Canada

**Justine de Jaegher**, Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

**Chris Gallaway**, Friends of Medicare

**Michele Girash**, Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

**Kellee Janzen**, Unifor

**Dr. Joel Lexchin**, (Research)

**Rev. Linda McLaren**, United Church of Canada

**Natalie Mehra**, Ontario Health Coalition

**Jane Mulkewich**, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

**Jason MacLean**, National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)

**Keith Newman**, Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC)

**Emilio Rodriguez**, Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ)

**Adrienne Silnicki**, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

**Natalia Tola**, Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

**Pat Van Horne**, United Steelworkers

**Christina Warner**, Council of Canadians

## Staff members

**Tracy Glynn**, PhD, National Director of Operations and Projects

**Anne Lagacé Dowson**, Media Director

**Steven Staples**, National Director of Policy and Advocacy

## Canadian Health Coalition

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