

NEWSBULLETIN

HEALTH CARE UNIONS BAND TOGETHER | HOSPITAL PRIVATIZATION

What now?

Bill 124 limited increases in wages and total compensation to no more than 1% a year for a 3-year period.

When the law was struck down on November 29 it meant that the restrictions on bargaining more than 1% don't exist, unless the province appeals.

CUPE has agreed with the Ontario Hospital Association that if a the court strikes down Bill 124, bargaining on wages for the period that would have been covered by the bill can begin again.

Government to appeal

The Ford government said that it will appeal the court decision. It is not clear what impact an appeal would have on delaying a return to the bargaining table to re-negotiate the 1% and 1% wage increases recently awarded by a board of arbitration to CUPE members under Bill 124 before it was struck down.



CUPE Local 2816 President Leonora Foster (2nd from left) at Queen's Park, together with leaders from ONA, OPSEU, SEIU and Unifor calling for a plan to retain hospital staff and to stop privatization of hospital services, Nov. 24

Court strikes down Bill 124

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice struck down Bill 124 on November 29. Unions will campaign against the government's announcement to appeal the decision.

"I declare the act to be void and of no effect," Justice Markus Koehnen wrote.

"On my view of the evidence, Ontario was not facing a situation in 2019 that justified an infringement on Charter rights," the justice added.

"Unlike other cases that have upheld wage restraint legislation, Bill 124 sets the wage cap at a rate below which employees were obtaining in free collective bargaining negotiations."



*Perth Community Meeting
Nov. 21: OHC Director Natalie
Mebra, Perth Mayor Fennik
and OCHU Area 5 VP John
Jackson Nov. 21*

**Ontario Health
Coalition Town Hall
Meetings on
Privatization of
Hospital Services**

15 Town Hall meetings have been organized by the Ontario Health Coalition in November.

Another 20 are planned in the New Year.

As part of the town hall meetings, communities develop action plans.

Two key dates for anyone who can attend are for these demonstrations against the privatization of hospital surgeries, diagnostics and support services:

- **December 9 at noon at CHEO and the Ottawa Hospital**
- **December 12 at noon at University Health Network**



(Left to right) ONA First VP Angela Preocanin, OCHU-CUPE S/T Sharon Richer, OHC Executive Director Natalie Mebra and MPP France Gélinas on NDP private members' bill to prevent privatization of health care services, Nov. 23



Membership Town Hall: Bill 124

OCHU/CUPE has scheduled a telephone Town Hall for all members on **Wednesday, December 7th at 5 PM EST**. This phone call will be to provide updates on the recent changes to Bill 124. Steven Barrett from Goldblatt Partners LLC, who argued and won the case for the unions will be making a presentation and answering questions.

We will be telephoning members directly. If you have not received the call, please call the number below:

Dial-in Number: 1-877-229-8493

Pin: 114211#

Please reach out to admin@ochu.on.ca if you have any questions