

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Pre-Budget Consultations, 2022

Chatham-Kent Health Coalition Sarnia Lambton Health Coalition
Shirley Roebuck, Chairperson

January 10 2022

I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to present my coalitions' concerns regarding the 2022 Budget, and the possible effects a spartan budget may have on Ontario's public healthcare system.

For over 25 years, governments have cut funding to our healthcare system; administrative staff, front line staff, services and hospitals have been downsized. Our present government, the Progressive Conservative majority government, led by Premier Doug Ford, is planning the largest funding cut since the Mike Harris era. This is plainly laid out by the FAO, in the auditor's report of Spring, 2021. The government has over estimated the deficit, and underestimated the revenue!

I have previously presented several times, in front of this committee, and laid out my objections to any further healthcare cuts.

I know that all of the committee members know the numbers, and I believe that the committee members know the results of further diminishing funding to public healthcare.

The result of the government's proposals will further cripple the healthcare system, and make it easier for the government to bring in privatization of hospital care, of long term care and of Home care.

This is not what Ontarians want. one only has to review the records of private, for-profit LTC homes during COVID, and the records of the crumbling Home Care system. Hospitals operate in crisis, daily, at present.

My recommendation, my plea is for the government to increase hospital funding to an acceptable level, where staff and services can serve the

population, to revamp LTC to eliminate any private, for-profit businesses from running LTC homes, and to totally re-build Home Care.

How does the government do this? Claw back tax breaks for the wealthy, and for corporations. Represent the people who voted for you.

Period; In my remaining time, let's talk and try to come up with solutions which will serve the people of Ontario.

Thank you.

Shirley Roebuck
Chairperson of the CKHC and SLHC