

Name

Ria Heynen

Submitted on Thu, 06/11/2020 - 15:44

Organization name

Ottawa Raging Grannies

Comments on proposed Bill 175: Connecting People to Home and Community Care Act - 2020.

We have deep concerns about the Amendments to the Connecting Care Act 2019.

Since the proposed Act includes so many changes, the following only touches on some of our concerns:

- The Ontario Health Team is governed by a Board that is not subject to the Ontario Public Service Legislation in regards to conflict of interest. This Board includes mostly people coming from pro-privatization business, as well as bankers and corporate executives; there are no open meetings, etc. Many of us were deeply troubled by the lack of democracy with LHINs but the new Act would make it far worse.

- Why replacing LHINs (which will cost millions) instead of refining and improving on them?

Indeed, it needed improvement but the proposed 202 Act will be an enormous step backwards.

- The Repeal of the Home Care and Community Services Act of 1994 will result in removing most of the public interest provisions (legislative) and moving them into Regulation . This is totally undemocratic and absolutely unacceptable. It would remove any possibility to require legislative input and approval. There would be no space for the public's response and involvement.

Example: The Bill of Rights for Clients of Home and Community Care.

- The Act contains almost NO PUBLIC INTEREST PROVISIONS. It gives enormous power to the Minister and the 'Super Agency', which is able to restructure Health Care without Public Input.

For example: there are almost NO procedures in place for feedbacks from the users of the health care services(which also includes the various health care workers and family members of the users).

- The New Act 175 opens many more doors for the Privatization of Public Home Care and Community Services.

The new Act enables for-profit corporations to not only coordinate the care but also be the provider of that care. This sounds very much as a conflict of interest.

- The COVID-19 Pandemic shows us how important it is to have a strong Public Health Care system, which should include Senior care, Long Term Care and Home Care.