Standing Committee Hearing
London Ontario
Jan 31/06
Claudette Drapeau
Bluewater Health-
SEIU Co-Chair Local 1

Hello- My name is Claudette Drapeau and I'm an RPN at Bluewater Health and Co-Chair of SEIU Local 1 in Sarnia

I am here to appeal to your sense of propriety. I am not opposed to change but I am against inequity and the demise of our Health Care which should be made available to all Canadians regardless of their status.

The LHINS structure is undemocratic. Health Care does not need more bureaucracy, with the LHINS being appointed by the government and accountable to only the government who will serve the people?

How can you justify spending 52 million dollars to hire 550 new bureaucrats and add to this 200 million to set up the new LHINS organization while not one cent is being utilized to add a single family doctor , medical specialist or direct hands on care provider to our health care system?

14 million dollars had to be cut from Bluewater Health which resulted in 164 professionals being laid off. You cut at our local levels to balance so called budgets and turn around and create another expense that does not serve the people.

Health care taxes should be utilized for what it was intended for –HEALTH CARE. The Liberal government is not being accountable to the people and our tax dollars are being wasted on bureaucracy while people are dying waiting for care.

How can you ensure that there is a clear understanding that patients can continue to receive care across LHINS boundaries. We are always going to be closer to London than Windsor, so will our referral process continue?

Some things may work in Toronto having one hospital do all (hips, knees, and cataracts) etc but that won't work in smaller communities and Sarnia is a smaller community. If you move a service as hip and knee surgeries to one location we

will loose our ortho's and then our emergency department will not function as needed and down we go. How is this going to benefit our community?

Does the government equate the reduction of services to better health care?

Will our rural hospitals be nothing more than walk in clinics? How are senior citizens expected to shoulder the cost of traveling expenses of fixed incomes and secondly can you ensure they're safety on our major highways during inclement weather?

I have been told that they can rely on family- well not all senior citizens have that privilege and for those fortunate enough to have families again their will be a cost. Lost wages, hotel bills, meals etc and additional stress due to traveling highways and having to leave a loved one behind in a strange city.

People are not just cases they are individuals with physical and emotional needs, by putting senior citizens in disorienting environments without family and morale support you decrease their chances of a quick and full recovery.

It seems to me that only the rich can afford this new health care system and the poor and the senior citizens will be left out in the cold.

Our hospital Bluewater Health is a community focus point and is staffed with professionals who are educated to respond to extreme emergencies.

We live in the chemical valley where first response must be upheld. We cannot afford a 2nd rate sub standard health care system which can jeopardize the lives of our citizens in our community.

By contracting out services to the lowest bidder you put us at risk. You will lose stability and gain greater disparities.

Clearly this legislation is jeopardizing every health care workers livelihood.

The government wants to remove the protection of current collective agreements , debase staff to work at lower wages and remove their hard earned pensions with no benefits. Odd don't you think for a health care worker to be working in a hospital for a private company yet have no health benefits.

The liberal government is attempting to balance budgets on the backs of workers with total disregard to the chaos and hardships it will create.

Displaced non-clinical service workers will have no right to transfer their union contracts to the for profit private provider of non-clinical services.

It is essential that a human resource plan be developed. Health care sector workers' rights must be protected

You need to meet and have dialogue with front line Health Care Workers to find resolution. People with integrity and common sense who understand what is at stake and understand the needs of the patients.

Do not put our Health Care System in the hands of bureaucrats and business men who have a different agenda and who are ignorant to the dynamics of true Health Care.

Do not pass this flawed legislation.

Thank-you
Claudette.