

# NEWSLETTER

Bill 138 | North Bay Addictions Treatment Cuts | Local 79 | Coronavirus

## SARS like Coronavirus in China, Thailand, Japan

A SARS-like virus, that killed 2 in China. There are now active cases in Thailand and Japan. The US is monitoring for the virus at major airports.

**Provincial leadership call on this January 29 at 7 pm.**



## Solidarity Pact with Local 79

OCHU signed a solidarity pact with CUPE 79, who are bargaining with City of Toronto. It commits us to support one another in the fight against concessions, for real wage increases & to end the exploitation of part time and temporary employees. Details on the OCHU website.



Lakeridge hospital activist Charlene Van Dyk in Cornwall Dec. 11 rallying for increased staffing for residents in long term care

## Health privatization bill passes, receives Royal Assent in December

Bill 138, which allows for the privatization of the healthcare supply chain, which it defines to include clinical and support services, passed in the Ontario legislature before the holidays and received Royal assent almost immediately afterwards.

**A provincial leadership teleconference call** to talk about how we will respond to any initiative to privatize healthcare support or clinical services **will take place on January 29 at 7 p.m.**

Any proposal to contract out or privatize clinical or support services in healthcare will be met with fierce resistance.



31 Residential treatment beds for addiction face closure in May in North Bay. Local 139 is mounting a strong campaign to keep the beds open. Local 139 held a vigil in December.

Since May there have been 150 overdoses and 8 deaths in North Bay, which has a higher rate of addiction than southern Ontario

A poll commissioned by CUPE found 74% of residents want the treatment beds to remain open.

**A town hall is planned February 19** with national president Mark Hancock and Ontario Health Coalition's Natalie Mehra Everyone in North Bay will be called at home and asked to join.



Nurses and activists at North Bay candlelight vigil Dec. 23

## Ontario Council of Hospital Unions calls on the province to increase hospital and long term care funding by 5.3% in 2020 budget

In its Jan. 17 submission on the 2020 Ontario provincial budget, the OCHU/CUPE has called on the provincial government to increase the funding for hospitals and long term care facilities by 5.3%. Cuts of 15% over 5 years are planned by the PC government.

This demand was also made by the Ontario Hospital Association- it would mean an additional \$900,000,000 in funding for hospitals just so that they can meet their basic cost increases.

OCHU plans a media tour of Ontario in February and March on the issue of healthcare funding and lack of capacity. Ontario funds its hospitals and long term care facilities at the lowest level of any province



Maggie Jewell, president of Local 1909 (3rd from l.) and local activists receive award for activism from Louis Rodrigues, First VP, Jan. 14