

AFTER SCHOOL

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SAVE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE
FROM PRIVATIZATION

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AFTER SCHOOL

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4, OCT. 2024

After School is the official publication of Active Retired Members of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Chapter 12 Toronto (ARM Chapter 12).

Opinions expressed in *After School* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of ARM Chapter 12 or of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO).

Submissions are always welcome but will not be returned. All submissions are subject to editing for length and style while respecting the author's intentions.

Editorial team:

Editor: Ronda Allan

Associate Editor: Eileen Markwick

Reports Editor: Eileen Markwick

Advertising Editor: Michelle Barraclough

Editorial Board: Charles Hawkes, Allan Hux, Jim Mile, Manfred Netzel

AFTER SCHOOL CONTACT:

afterschool.armch12@gmail.com

ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERS CHAPTER 12 TORONTO EXECUTIVE

President: Manfred Netzel

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Secretary: Bill Pryde

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Members at Large:

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IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the Fall 2024 Issue of *After School*, your ARM newsletter. This issue begins with Manfred Netzel's *President Report* (pg. 4). Throughout the issue you will see many photos from events. These include those with the report on the ARM C12 Annual General Meeting by Bill Pryde (pg. 8) held in June and the Labour Day pictures in Manfred's report (pg. 10). Review a synopsis of the day and the year's financial statement, prepared by ARM C12 Treasurer Michelle Barraclough. You can also take a trip with Michelle as she shares her adventures buying a SIM card in India.

The latest on our pensions is in Paul Headdon's report (pg. 6) and see more

photos, from the May 30 rally against privatization of our Health Care that accompanied Charles Hawkes' article *Saying 'No!' to for Profit Health Care* (pg. 14).

Allan Hux recounts the ARM C12 trip to the Holocaust Museum (pg. 9) and his announcement about the next organized trip to the Asia Pacific Peace Museum on November 13.

Upcoming events include the attendance of a representative from RTIP who will share the latest about our benefits plan on November 27.

We hope to see you at one or more of the events. Watch for emails or check the ARM C12 [website events](#) for details in the coming weeks.

ARM CHAPTER 12 NEEDS YOU

ARM Chapter 12 is only as good as the participation of its members.

There are lots of ways, big and small, to get active in ARM Chapter 12:

- **Join the *After School* Editorial Board:** The Editorial Board meets online four times a year and helps determine the content of the magazine.
- **Submit to *After School*:** We are always looking for, opinions, reviews, poetry, art, photography and even short fiction. Send your work to afterschool.armch12@gmail.com. Deadlines for submission and the submission guidelines are on the ARM Chapter 12 website.
- **Organize an event for members:** Are you interested in golfing, curling, attending museums and/or concerts, playing euchre, bridge, poker etc. Do you have a bit of spare time and some experience in organizing an event? We have the resources to promote and support member events, and, depending on if there are costs involved, we may even be able to arrange subsidization or sponsorship. For more details on how to submit a proposal, just go to our website, www.armch12osstf.ca and look under Events.
- **Join the ARM Chapter 12 Executive:** Executive members are elected at the Annual General Meeting. However, there is no limit to the number of Executive Members At Large position, so, if you want to take a bit more of a leadership role in ARM Chapter 12, this is how you do it. Check out our Constitution on the website.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT—MANFRED NETZEL

First off, I hope that all of the members and friends of ARM C.12 had a restful and relaxing summer, even if the actual end of the season has not officially arrived at the time of writing this message. The weather was quite unpredictable for much of June, July and August, so I hope no one experienced property damage, extended power outages and related expenses...if so.

Since the last issue in May, we had our AGM on June 5, resulting in the election of a new Executive which includes some new faces...a 2nd Vice-President, Paul Kossta, joined by Domenic Bellissimo as a new Member-at-Large. Both bring a wealth of Federation experience at the local and provincial level. We look forward to both joining our already experienced leadership team for 2024–25 to meet the political and social justice challenges in Toronto, Ontario and even a possible federal election before the end of this term of office. First VP Charlie Hawkes continues to work with the Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) to monitor the effects of PC cuts to healthcare spending in 2023–24 of almost \$2 billion. There is a summary of the key highlights from the AGM found elsewhere in this issue.

As you might glean from our webpage and Calendar of Events in this issue, we have already planned some events for the months ahead. Besides the annual Sponsors' luncheon workshops in November and January, and Executive member Candice Phoenix has already done some preliminary planning for a theatre group outing in November and/or December. Paul Kossta has started investigating feasibility of a spring golf tournament with one or more other GTHA ARM Chapters. Of course, the winter weather will limit (or not) during those months, so the use of online technology (i.e. ZOOM) may be required...stay tuned.

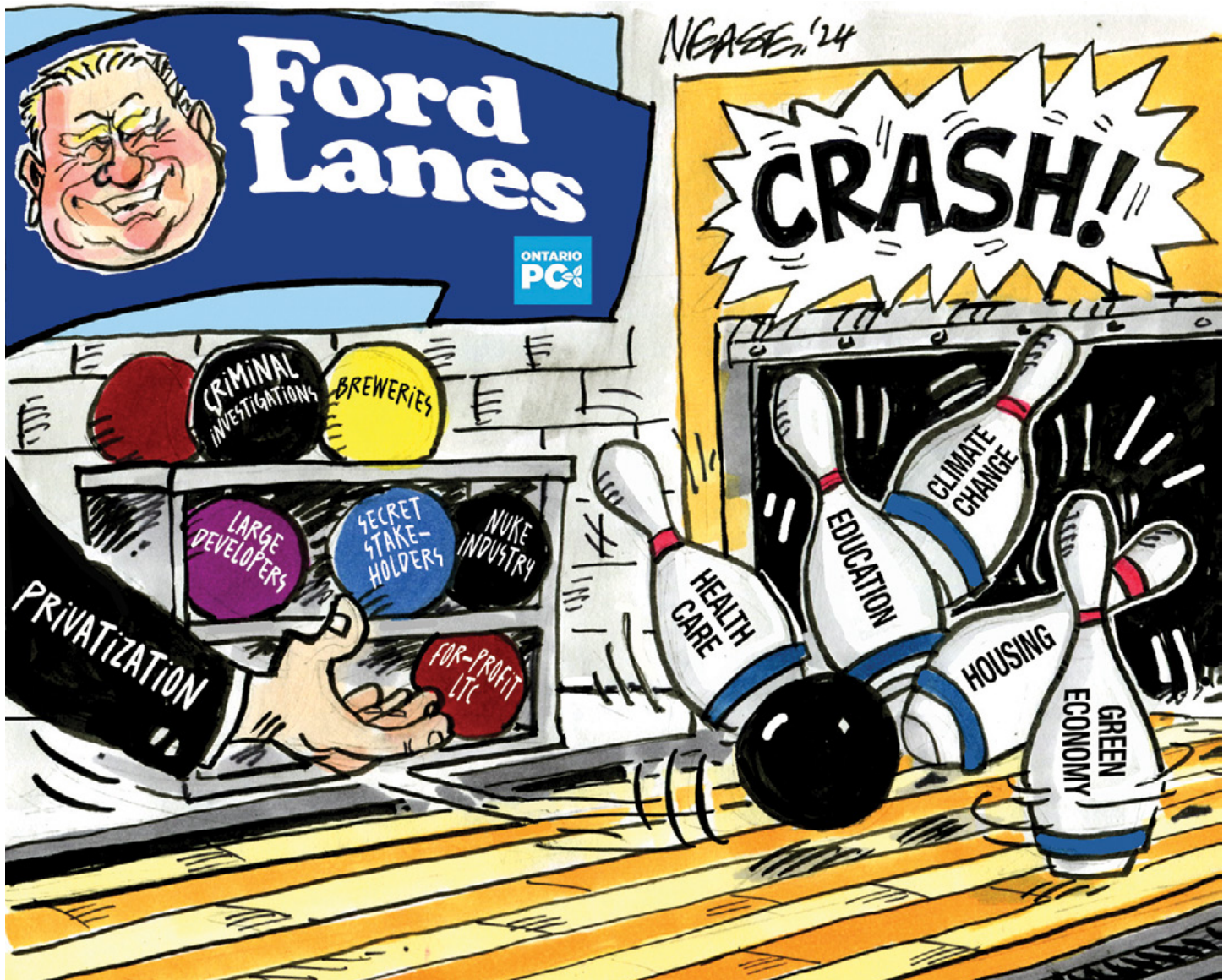
Finally, I am pleased to announce that the new Provin-



cial Office facility at 60 Mobile Drive in North York has now opened a room booking system for the coming year. Consequently, all of our Executive Meetings will be located in the new facility starting on September 25 and will presumably be able to accommodate the group for the next ten months. We also hope to plan some of our luncheon presentations and the next AGM on June 4, 2025 at the new Provincial Office. We will give you sufficient notice if that is an option and with any further relevant details. Monitoring the very informative web page (armch12osstf.ca) by Christos Aslanidis and tracking the receipt of email blasts sent out by Bill Pryde remain the best ways to stay informed and to help plan your involvement in your local ARM Chapter. Please remain an active and interested retired member.

In Federation,

Manfred



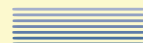
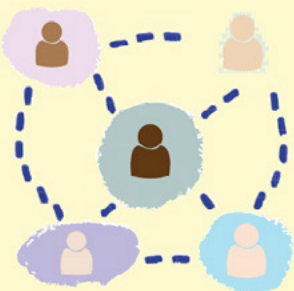
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PENSION PLAN REPORT APRIL 2024—PAUL HEADDON

Bilt Rewards, America’s largest loyalty program for home and neighbourhood, received \$150 million in funding for an investment led by Teacher’s Venture Growth, part of our pension plan. Some of the other investors included Vanderbilt University, and the University of Illinois. This loyalty program included over 21,000 restaurants and 3,500 fitness studios.

KKR a leading global investment firm, and Teacher’s Venture Growth are leading a US\$ 140 million investment in SmartHR, a leading cloud-native human resources management platform in Japan founded in 2013. SmartHR, is a platform that provides tech-enabled human resources management solutions which are focussed on employee management and administration, growth, talent management and productivity.

2024 MID-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR OTPP

- Net assets at \$ 255.8 billion
- 6 month and 12 month total net return of 4.2 %
- Strong long-term return of 7.3 % over ten years and 9.3% since inception
- Fully funded for the 11th straight year and will file a valuation with the regulatory authorities

ASSET MIX

ASSETS IN BILLIONS

Public equity 15%	37.2
Private equity 23%	58.5
Venture Growth 3%	8.1
Bonds 33%	85.5
Realty and Rate Products 4%	9.7
Commodities 11%	29.1
Natural Resources 5%	12.2
Inflation Edge 5%	12.2
Other 1%	

Source OTPP

OTPP has increased the portion of its investments in publicly traded stocks, which now make up 15 percent of its portfolio, or \$37.2 billion, compared to 10 percent at the start of the year. Teachers invest in more than 50 countries in a broad array of assets. Jo Taylor OTPP CEO has indicated that it is more of a challenge to make returns in the current environment than it was in the past. Source National Post July 13, 2024

OTPP invests a large portion of its \$255.8 billion of assets in privately held markets. It would like to sell some of its long-

held or lower-performing investments to recoup cash that can be used to make new deals. This asset class has been reduced from 16 percent to 14 percent over the last year. It has become difficult to sell some of these assets at a reasonable price. Source Globe and Mail July 14, 2024

Alberta’s Investment Management Corp. (Aimco) had a return of 5.4% of its funds in the first six months of the year. Source August 28, 2024

OMERS had a return of 4.4 percent for the first six months of this year. This return was helped by the performance of its investments in public equities and strong contributions from its holdings in private credit and infrastructure Source Star August 16, 2024

Stephen Poloz, a former Bank of Canada governor, is leading a working group identifying pension fund investment opportunities, in several areas including airports.

OTPP, Aimco, OMERS and the infrastructure arm of the Kuwait Investment Authority purchased London City Airport in 2016. It has been a rather successful investment for all parties involved.

Airport investment is a financially viable structure: healthy fees are collected each time an airplane takes off or lands, a new monopoly of amenities such as rental cars, parking and concessions. This type of infrastructure investment should have steady returns keeping up with inflation.

OTPP also owns airports in Bristol (100%) and Birmingham International Airport (45%). It also owns a stake in airports in Copenhagen and Brussels.

Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec own 12 percent of Heathrow Airport in London. This privatization of airports could lead to higher fees which are extremely unpopular. Source National Post August 24, 2024

There is still an ongoing dispute regarding OTIP and Member RX having the ability to be the exclusive provider for certain specialty medications. This dispute will be handled by the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Source Globe and Mail August 20, 2024

ARM C12 TORONTO—SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT 2023–2024

—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

IncomeStatement	ARMChapter12		July2023June 30,2024
Balancefrom2023			\$16,146.17
	Balance	Expenses	Revenue
OSSTFRbate Fees			\$13,027.50
Educatorsfinancial Contributions			\$1,000.00
OTIPcontribution			\$7,500.00
ExecutiveLunches		\$5,840.27	
LuncheonMeeting Expenses		\$5,990.94	
LuncheonMeeting Revenue			
Newsletter Ex- penses		\$1,772.57	
NewsletterEditor		\$2,550.00	
Websiteexpenses		\$226.00	
Gifts, Cards, Membership& Charities		\$5,250.00	
Office & Miscella- neous expenses		\$34.95	
Totals		\$21,664.73	\$37,673.67
NetIncome- over the period		\$16,008.94	

ARM EVENTS

ARM C12 TORONTO—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023–2024

—BILL PRYDE

On Wednesday June 5 your OSSTF ARM Chapter 12 Executive welcomed members to the 26th Annual General Meeting held at the Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre. President Manfred Netzel welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Secretary Bill Pryde read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, the OSSTF Pledge and the Anti-harassment Statement, with Executive Member Jim Mile appointed as Anti-harassment Officer for the Meet-

ing. Manfred Netzel introduced guests: Michelle Teixeira, President, Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit, Elaine Karroum, Vice-president, Toronto Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit, Bill Rakovitis, Educators Financial Group (EFG) and later Karen Littlewood, OSSTF/FEESO Provincial President.

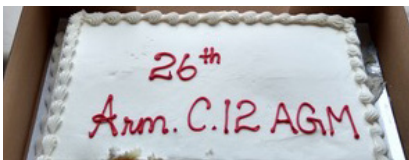
At 11 o'clock Peter Tabuns, M.P.P. was introduced by Executive Member Candice Phoenix and gave an enthralling keynote address centred on climate change and its effects.

All current Executive members were re-elected by acclamation, as well as two new members, Paul Kossta and Domenic Bellissimo.

Various Executive members presented their reports.

Following adjournment of the meeting at 12:25 p.m. a light lunch was provided, followed by an available tour of the fantastic, new provincial OSSTF head office at 60 Mobile Drive.

All are encouraged to attend the next Annual General Meeting in June 2025.



Photos clockwise: Paul Headdon, ARM C12 Executive Officer; Elaine Karroum, Vice-president, Toronto Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit; Allan Hux, ARM C12 Member at Large; Karen Littlewood, OSSTF/FEESO provincial President and Manfred Netzel, ARM C12 President; Peter Tabuns, MPP Toronto-Danforth with Manfred Netzel, ARM C12 President.

TORONTO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM: ARM 12 VISIT 23 MAY 2024

—ALLAN HUX

The new Toronto Holocaust Museum is situated in the Prosserman Jewish Community Centre at 4588 Bathurst Street, North York and provides an amazing overview of the Holocaust with important links to Toronto and Canada. There are 3 short films on the origins of the Holocaust and lives of individuals during and after the Ho-

locaust which visitors may view and which I found very interesting. With Holocaust survivors aging and passing, the THM has recorded the stories of a number of survivors who provide comments at each of the 9 stations in the Museum. There are excellent timelines and interesting photographs and artifacts on display. The

filmed testimonies of survivors who settled in Toronto I found very moving especially as someone who had taught at Harbord C.I. Following our visit some people stayed for a light lunch in the Eisenbergs Café. I highly recommend that people plan to visit the [Toronto Holocaust Museum](#) in the future.

ASIA PACIFIC PEACE MUSEUM TOUR

ARM C12 is planning a guided tour on Wednesday, November 13 of the [Asia Pacific Peace Museum](#) which has just opened in Toronto. The Museum explores the issues of World War II in Asia from 1931–1945. This is an aspect of the Second World War that most Canadians have not explored. Watch for an email blast from ARM12 with details of this outing in the coming weeks.

Feel free to contact the organizer, Allan Hux, at allanhux@sympatico.ca



LABOUR DAY 2024 PARADE SUMMARY—MANFRED NETZEL

Once again, we had a small (but enthusiastic) contingent participate in the 152nd annual Toronto and York Region Labour Day Parade in downtown Toronto, in what has become an annual tradition for our ARM Chapter over many years. The theme of this year's parade was "Workers SHAPE Our Future" and was reflected by the over 25,000 participants, including several bands and musicians on flatbed trucks, some floats and a reviewing stand filled with political and labour leaders that we have supported over many years. Notables included Mayor Olivia Chow, numerous members of City Council, MPPs, and Past/Present Labour Council leadership.

The weather was perfect so that both the marchers and public onlookers along the parade route were energized. The education unions, including our colleagues in OSSTF Toronto and the other affiliates, also brought their children and grandkids to help distribute school supplies to families along Queen St. West. They were rewarded for their efforts with wristbands for free admission to the CNE afterwards.

Special thanks to ARM C.12 member (and OSSTF/FEESO Life Member) Larry French, ARM Council Chair (and ARM C.13/16 President) Iain Beaton and the OSSTF Leadership Team led by President Michelle Teixeira for supporting our attendance in this year's event.

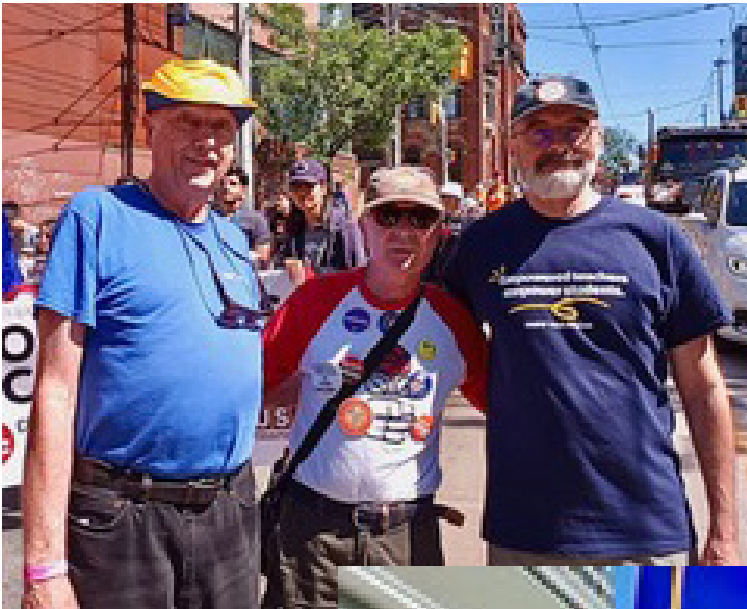
Hope to see you next September!



Photos:

top: Manfred Netzel and Bhutilla Karpoche, MPP Parkdale—High Park

bottom: Cindy Bellman, Mayor Olivia Chow, Manfred Netzel and Larry French



Photos:
top: Manfred, Larry French and Iain Beaton
bottom: ARM C12 members



HOW TO GET A SIM CARD IN INDIA AND OTHER ADVENTURES

—MICHELLE BARRACLOUGH

On a recent visit to India, I had the pleasure of trying to get a SIM card from a local telecommunication shop in Amritsar. I had always wanted to visit the Golden temple (Harmandir Sahib), the sacred area to the Sikh religion in India, roughly the equivalent of the Vatican. The temple itself is beautiful, surrounded by a sacred lake.

So after landing and finding my way to the hotel, I decided to try out a couple of restaurants and picked up a tuk-tuk (a local version of a scooter taxi). My lucky day, because the driver spoke English, quite well and knew where to get whatever you wanted including SIM cards. He promised to pick me up the following day to do a tour and get my SIM card. As those of you who are travellers, are no doubt familiar, communication on your cell phone is a necessity for everything from getting tickets to hotel reservations these days.

The Golden temple is definitely worth the visit. It's a beautiful temple covered in gold leaf surrounded by a holy lake in which the faithful bathed. Food is also supplied to visitors at no charge and everything was spotless. After the visit, we made it to the mall that had the telecommunication shop to purchase a SIM card. I left my tuk-tuk and made my way into the store. Here I explained that I had just arrived and needed a SIM card. I thought it would take me a couple of minutes and I'd be on my way. My mistake! I was given a couple of forms that had to be filled out in detail including a local guarantor. I explained, again, that I had just arrived from Canada,

but it made no difference. So there I am racking my brain for anyone who might be acceptable and I came up with the brilliant idea of the tuk-tuk driver. And yes he was acceptable, so I thought my worries were over. But no, they now wanted a way to contact my father. I then explained to them if they wanted to talk to him they would have to have a seance. My dad had passed on several years ago. They said they could overlook that. I thought, Thank God! So they put the SIM card in my phone, and told me that the service would be active after a 24h wait. On the way back to the hotel, they phoned the driver to see if he was really ok

being a guarantee for me! So eventually yes I did get the service but what a rigamarol!

I spent the rest of time in Amritsar admiring the beautiful architecture and interesting local customs. One of which is the lowering of the flag ceremony at the border (Wagah/Attari flag lowering ceremony). This ceremony is repeated every day at the border between India and Pakistan about 20 minutes before sun down. All interested parties make their way to the border through a type of no man's land leaving their transportation about a kilometer behind them. On arrival the Indian side has a rather large stadium,



with several sections, the regular Indians, the VIPS and the tourists. There is a Host who revs up the crowd chanting, loud music, and groups of people running towards the border with flags. Once that is complete, Indian army marches in and goes to the gate and then a group of soldiers kick as high as they can and flourish threateningly. They must practice a lot as I have

never seen any kicks that high. Truly amazing! Once the Indians have completed their ceremony, the Pakistanis take over and go through a subdued version of the same, with a much smaller crowd and better music. Once both sides have done their kicking the flags are lowered, two soldiers shake hands and the gates between the two countries are closed, the ceremony

terminates and everyone goes home. If these two countries can participate in a mutually entertaining lowering of the flags perhaps there is still hope for some kind of peace between them.

After spending some more time in Anritsar I decided to take a long distance taxi to McCleod Gunge home of the Dali Lama, but that story will be told at another time.

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SAYING ‘NO!’ TO FOR PROFIT HEALTH CARE—CHARLES HAWKES

If the Ford government didn't get the message from last September's large protest rally that most Ontarians oppose for profit health care, the Ontario Health Coalition made sure they did by organizing a second protest rally on May 30.

Over 8,000 citizens, most from Greater Toronto marched up from Nathan Phillips Square to Queen's Park with banners flying to protest the government's accelerating push to expand the numbers of private clinics operating in Ontario. ARM members joined patient advocates, health care workers, small and rural hospital advocates, long-term care advocates, and labour leaders in the protest. From the steps of Queen's Park, the three opposition party leaders spoke forcefully about the need to defend public health care against Ford's

privatization plans.

For seniors, eye care is a top health concern. Since Covid, private clinics that perform cataract operations outside of hospitals have experienced 50 percent patient increase with seniors forming the bulk of new patients. Wait times in hospitals are a major reason for this shift to the clinics. Most of the influx for treatment is made up of higher income patients, (22% of the increase) while lower income patients fell by 9%. The disparity between the two groups is amplified by private clinics' pressuring cataract patients to buy more expensive lens which lower income patients can't afford. This practice of clinics is called 'upselling'. A Chapter 12 ARM member told us how the private clinic he visited for his cataract operation high pressured him to

buy an expensive lens. The Canadian Medical Association reports people being billed up to \$8000 in illegal fees for a variety of procedures.

The Ford government announced an expansion of medical procedures such as CAT scans, joint replacement, and other procedures into private clinics in January 2023. The result for medical care in Ontario is predictable. As Dr. David Horbach Head of Surgery at Women's College Hospital stated "we're not inventing new surgeons, nurses or anesthesiologists..."

The private sector has to draw these resources away from the public sector". As the government encourages private clinics to expand, allowing special fees and practices such as upselling, the future looks to many like the beginnings of two-tier health care.

Photos from the Ontario Health Coalition protest rally on May 30.
Below and top right page: ARM C12 members
This page top right: Natalie Mehra, Executive Director—Ontario Health Coalition





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