

**PRESENTATION REQUEST**

PLEASE PRINT

<b>SUBJECT:</b> WE OWN IT CAMPAIGN		
<b>PREFERRED DATE:</b> ASAP	<b>ALTERNATE DATE:</b> ASAP	
<b>NAME:</b> ANDREW PARKER		
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>		
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>		
<b>City</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>	
<b>PHONE:</b>	<b>HOME:</b>	<b>BUSINESS:</b>
<b>FAX NO.:</b>		<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS:</b>
<b>NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable), INCLUDING THE PERSON(S) WHO WILL BE SPEAKING AND/OR PRESENT AT THE MEETING:</b> ANDREW PARKER ANDREA GURDON		
<b>BRIEF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION:</b> WE OWN IT IS AN ANTI-PRIVATIZATION CAMPAIGN BASED ON EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING PUBLIC SERVICES PUBLIC + PROTECTING ONTARIO'S ASSETS. WE ARE SEEKING THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN. - www.wpcwnit.ca		
DO YOU REQUIRE AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If yes, please contact the Legislative and Court Services Department to make arrangements.		
WHAT FORMAT? i.e. Power Point, Overhead slides etc. (Note: a maximum of 12 slides is recommended). Power Point <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Windows Media Player <input type="checkbox"/> Version #		

Personal information on this form is collected under the legal authority of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended. The information is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Questions about this collection should be directed to the City Clerk, City of Barrie, 70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5, Telephone 705 739-4204.

City of Barrie, Legislative and Court Services Department  
70 Collier Street, P.O. Box 400, Barrie, L4M 4T5  
Tel: 705 739-4204 Fax: 739-4243  
[www.barrie.ca](http://www.barrie.ca)

**KEEP PUBLIC**

**SERVICES PUBLIC**



**We Own It**

---

# Table of Contents

---

<b>What's We Own It?</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Privatization in Ontario</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Bringing Back Better</b>	<b>09</b>
1 Public services save money	10
2 Public services are higher quality	16
3 Public services are more accountable	18
4 Public services are safer	22
5 Public services ensure fairness	24
<b>What You Can Do To Save Public Services</b>	<b>26</b>

---

# What's We Own It?

---

We Own It is a grassroots movement of Ontarians who care about keeping public services public. With the help of allies like community groups, unions, student unions, equity-seeking groups, and families and individuals who care about building a future for all in Ontario, we want to share the facts about problems with privatization and the benefits of public services. Through public engagement online and off, mobilizer and volunteer support, and a dedicated website that shares news and case studies of communities that have rejected privatization, We Own It aims to keep building province-wide support for public services.

## Privatization in Ontario

The Ontario government wants to privatize a growing number of publicly owned assets and services, from the sale of beer and wine to hospital services and Hydro One. We believe Ontario residents don't agree — especially when they understand the facts about privatization and the benefits of publicly delivered services.

Growing evidence shows that when public services are publicly owned and publicly delivered, they're better, safer, more affordable, and more accountable to our communities. We're committed to sharing the facts and building support for public services across the province.



# \$8 BILLION:

the amount that **private contractors overcharged** the provincial government on 74 outsourced projects, according to a 2014 report by Ontario's Auditor General.

## *The Profit Motive*

What does privatization mean? It means highways, medical labs, and utilities are being used to generate profits instead of serving our communities. It means turning over to private corporations control of precious water supplies, community healthcare, and programs for children with disabilities. It means putting profit above safe, accountable and affordable high-quality public services.

Private corporations aren't interested in delivering public services because of the good they do for others. They're interested in making money. They'll only give someone's mother a bath, or guard a murderer travelling to court for sentencing, or perform a routine health exam as long as it turns them a profit. If there's no profit, the service is cut until there is.

Public service employees, on the other hand, have a different motivation: providing reliable, equitable, high-quality services to communities across the province.

### **Privatization:**

---

*noun* The transfer of a business, industry, or service from public to private, for-profit, ownership and control.

**Variants:** "asset recycling," "unlocking value," "broadening ownership," "public-private partnership," "P3," "contracting out," "individualized funding," "outsourcing," "vouchers," "divestiture," "social enterprise," "social impact bond"



## Going, Going, Gone

The Ontario government has a plan to auction off publicly owned assets and services to private companies right across the province. Here are just a few recent cases that have been made public.

STATUS	PUBLIC SERVICE	COST TO CITIZENS
SOLD	Highway 407	\$1 billion in lost revenue each year
PRIVATIZED	Medical lab tests	\$175-200 million extra each year
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP	Infrastructure construction	\$8 billion in overcharges from private contractors
AT RISK	LCBO	Provides \$1.9 billion to pay for public services
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP	William Osler Health Centre	\$500 million too much
FOR SALE	Hydro One	\$300-500 million in lost revenue each year
PRIVATIZED	Community Water Testing	7 dead, 2,500 sickened in Walkerton

---

# Bringing Back Better

---

A growing number of communities across Ontario — and around the world — are standing up against privatization. Many of these communities are even taking back vital public assets and services from private companies. Here's why.



---

## **01. Public services save money**

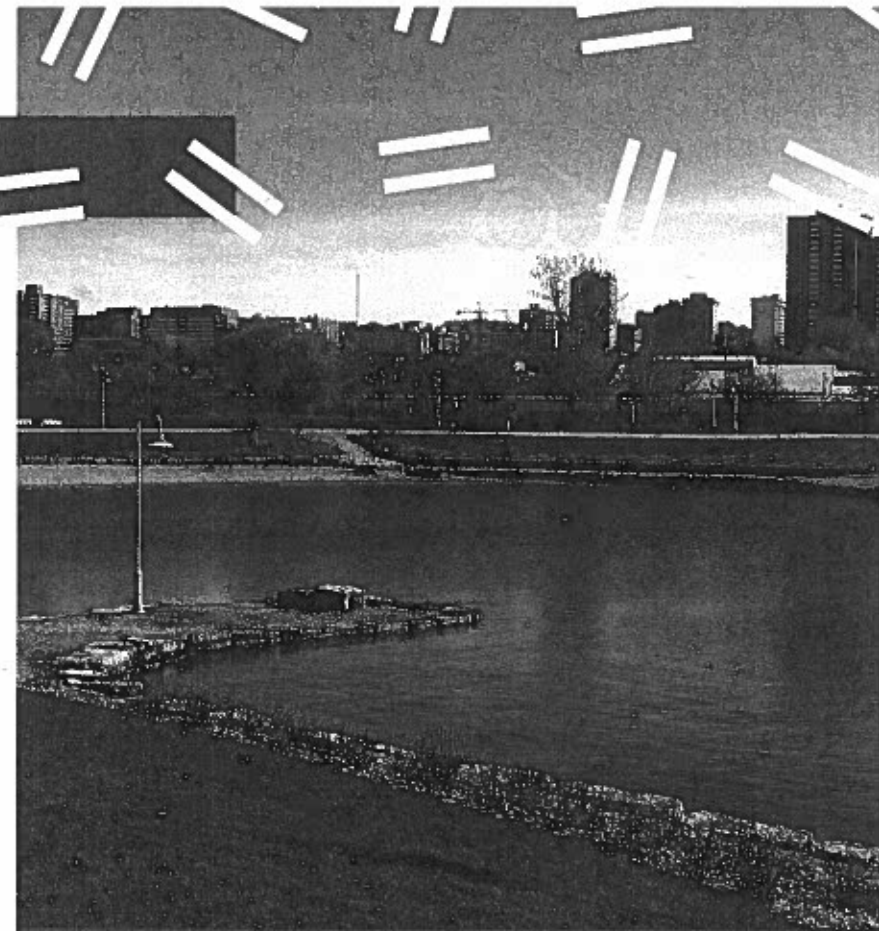
---

When governments and citizens pay private companies to provide public services, they're paying for more than just the services. They're paying the profit margin too. Private contractors need to make a profit, so what they charge for products and services is always more than their actual cost. Publicly delivered services, by contrast, are typically non-profit (or if a profit is made, it's put back into services). You frequently hear that private companies deliver services for less money. But the evidence clearly shows that because publicly delivered services don't need to earn extra profit, they often cost less.

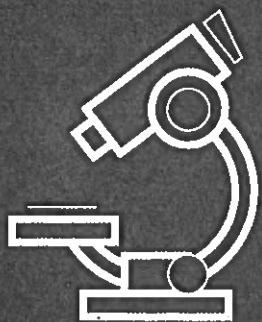
## *Case Study*

### **The City of Hamilton saves millions after taking its water treatment service out of the hands of private contractors**

Hamilton learned the cost of privatization the hard way. In 1994, the city hired a private contractor to operate its wastewater services. The company promised new jobs and infrastructure investments. But these things never came. Then in 1996, the worst sewage spill in the city's history sent raw sewage pouring into Hamilton Harbour after the company overfilled pipes. The cleanup cost — paid by the public — was \$2.5 million. Frustrated residents of Hamilton rallied, pushing the city to take back ownership of water treatment services. The results? A surge in quality of service and cost savings of \$5.5 million to the public.



Hamilton saved more than \$5.5 million by taking its water treatment system out of the hands of private contractors.



**\$22.70**

the average cost per  
test at medical labs  
in **public** hospitals\*

**\$33**

the average cost  
at **privately** run  
laboratories

\* 2005-2006 dollars

## Independent research confirms the cost efficiency of public services

A recent study by the Columbia Institute documented the reasons that 15 Canadian municipalities brought work back in-house. Twelve cited cost savings as a reason.

“Contracted out work identified as too costly included both water and wastewater, trash collection, snow removal, sidewalk construction and repair, recreation arenas, and the development of police and fire infrastructure.” This was true both for large and small local governments.

Surveys outside of Canada show similar results. A 2011 study in the U.K. found that 67 per cent of 140 local governments had either brought a service back in house, were in the process of insourcing, or were considering doing so. About 60 per cent identified cost as the reason; in the U.S., where a similar study was conducted, the figure was 52.5 per cent.

# Public services are accountable for spending

In her 2016 report on government spending, Ontario's Auditor General highlighted some of the ways that private companies drove up expenses by mismanaging budgets and charging extra fees. "In one project alone, errors made by the consultant caused a project to be over budget by 35 per cent, or \$13.6 million, a cost that Metrolinx [a government agency] had to pay as a result of the design not including all final requirements. In a sample of six projects whose total initial construction costs were over \$178 million, \$22.5 million more had to be spent just because of the design consultants' errors and omissions."

72%

After learning that the Auditor General says private contractors overcharged

Ontario by \$8 billion, **72% of Ontarians believe privatization is a bad idea.**

## What is a Public-Private Partnership or P3?

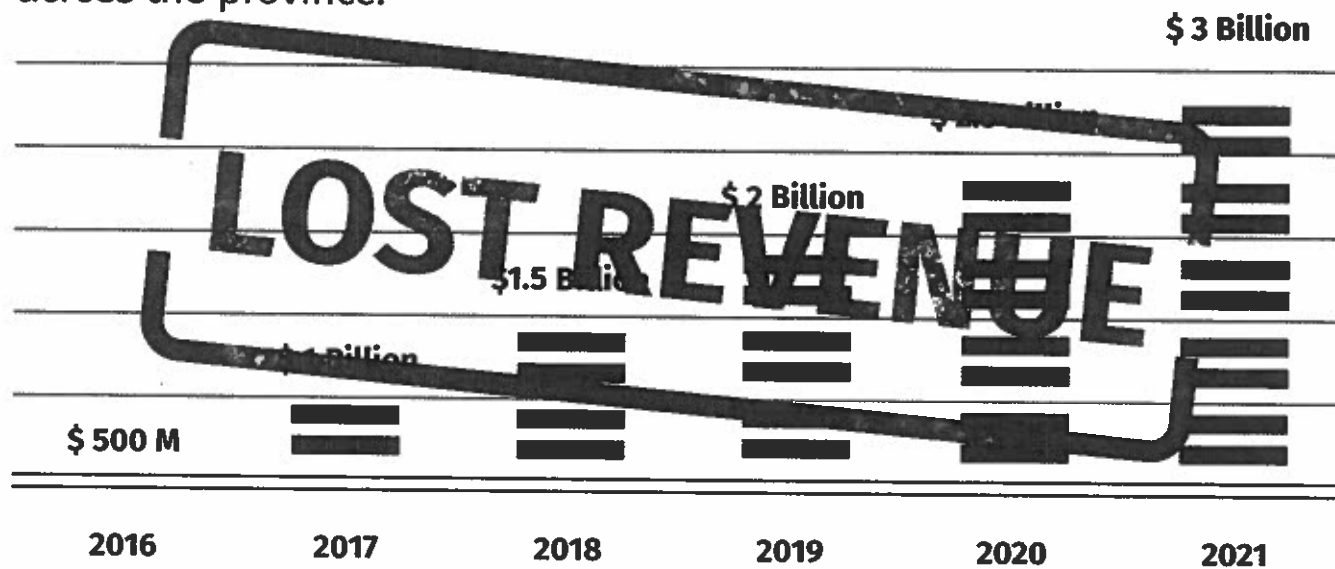
*In a typical P3 project, the government pays a private sector group to build, finance and operate everything from transit lines to nursing homes and hospitals, sometimes over decades. The private sector business then runs the new public infrastructure as a for-profit business.*

## Publicly owned assets generate long-term revenue

Governments often justify privatization by talking about budget deficits and the need for austerity. The Wynne government's selloff of Hydro One, for instance, will reportedly generate a one-time cash infusion for the provincial government. But Ontario loses long-term revenue, as much as a half billion dollars a year. Privatization focuses on short-term gain at the expense of long-term benefits. Meanwhile, a handful of private companies reap future rewards – in addition to hiking fees – on assets and services we all own.

## Reality Check: Lost Hydro Revenue

By selling off Hydro One, the province will lose an estimated \$500 million in revenue each year, according to a report by the Financial Accountability Officer. That's \$500 million that could be invested in hospitals, schools, highways and a host of other community services across the province.



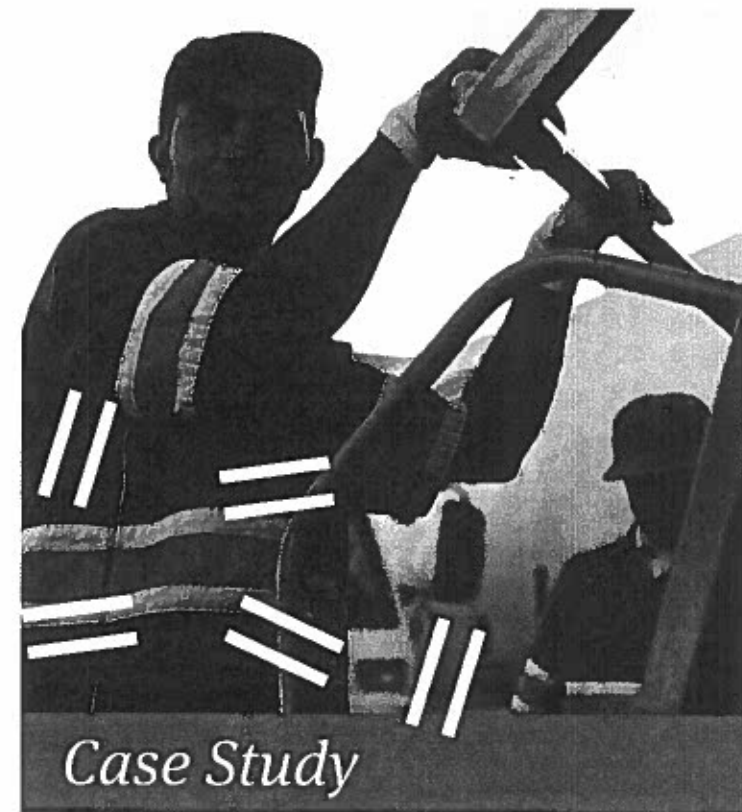


---

## 02. Public services are higher quality

---

Because they focus on making a profit, private contractors often sacrifice quality in order to cut costs. In a U.S.-based survey of local governments that have chosen to insource privatized services, 61 per cent said inadequate quality of service was the reason.



### **Ottawa garbage collection proves public is better**

*In Ottawa, where private contractors do waste collection in some neighbourhoods, complaints about privatized service are significantly higher: 15 calls for every 10,000 houses, compared to 10 in the rest of the city.*



## *Case Study*

### **Private companies cut corners**

When governments make spending decisions, they factor the public's needs into decision-making. When private companies make spending decisions, they're motivated by their own bottom lines. That's why a school in Alberta that was constructed by a private company ended up with no shades or awnings on the south or west sides of the building, an omission that clearly boosted the profits of the private contractor but sent temperatures soaring for the students and teachers inside.

### **Ontario nursing home puts profit over patients' dignity**

The most vulnerable in society pay the price when private companies cut costs and slash services they consider "unprofitable." A privately managed nursing home chain in Ontario enforced such a strict ration on supplies that elderly residents were left sitting in soiled diapers for hours on end and staff resorted to wrapping residents in towels and plastic garbage bags to keep beds dry.

---

## 03. Public services are more accountable

---

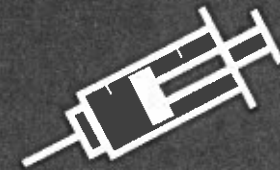
Private contracts are exactly that — private. The public has no way of knowing what's being handed over or committed to when a government signs a contract with a private company — or how the money is spent. And they can't fire the private company if the work doesn't measure up (in her 2016 report, Ontario's Auditor General highlighted a number of problems with private contractors, including one that installed a bridge truss upside-down). Public services, on the other hand, are inherently more transparent and accountable to the public. Citizens are entitled to make Freedom of Information requests. And if the government isn't providing adequate services, it can be voted out.

## *Case Study*

### **For-profit cancer clinic costs more, doesn't reduce wait times**

When Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto opened the province's first ever private cancer treatment clinic in 2001, many Ontarians had questions. But the provincial government wouldn't answer them. Although the for-profit facility was financed with public money, the contract was considered to be a "commercial secret" that prevented the public from accessing key details about the deal. To date, the full contract has never been made public. Public concern about the contract continued to build, eventually forcing a special audit by the provincial auditor general.

The audit revealed that the for-profit clinic had been charging the government \$500 more per procedure than publicly operated clinics did. It also showed that despite promises, the for-profit cancer clinic at Sunnybrook had not reduced patient wait lists after more than a year of operation.



A for-profit cancer clinic in Toronto charged \$500 more per procedure than public facilities.

720

Number of hospital beds  
**promised** in Brampton  
by 2008 at outset of P3  
negotiations with private  
consortium



479

Number of hospital beds  
**delivered** in Brampton by  
2008 at end of construction

## Private companies typically overpromise and under deliver.

To win contracts, private companies are motivated to overpromise. That's why so many public-private partnerships sound great on paper, but disappoint in reality. Private contractors say what they need to say to win a contract, but then do what they need to do to make a profit.



## **Private companies are accountable to CEOs, not to the public.**

That's why when private companies deliver goods and services, they deliver them on their own terms. Parents in Alberta found this out the hard way when they discovered they couldn't use new schools built by private contractors for after-hours sports or events.



### **Did you know?**

The Auditor General has said that using private money to pay for things like hospitals and transit is “high-risk,” “costly,” and “lacks transparency.”



## 04. Public services are safer

### Public services put public safety first

Profit-driven private companies put their own bottom lines ahead of public health and safety. Comparisons of privately operated and publicly run liquor stores, for instance, show that staff at public stores are twice as likely to say no to minors and drunk customers. Your community matters to public service employees. When private companies operate public services, on the other hand, risks run high. Consider the story of Walkerton, Ont. Seven people died and 2,500 became sick when a private company responsible for water services in the Ontario community engaged in improper operating practices, leading to a tragic E. coli outbreak.

### Case Study

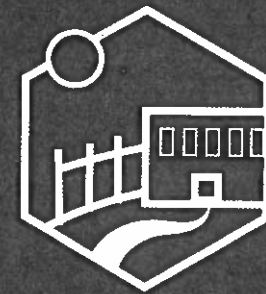
#### Publicly run blood services invest in vital safety screening process

*Canada's tainted blood scandal is one of the best examples of the health and safety benefits of publicly run services. Canadian Blood Services (CBS) instituted a rigorous safety screening process when it took over management of blood donations in Canada after 2,000 Canadians became infected with HIV from blood transfusions managed by a private company. There have been zero cases of transfusion-transmitted HIV in Canada under CBS management.*

## *Case Study*

### **Publicly run prisons mean lower repeat offender rates and safer communities**

Ontario's brief experiment with privately run prisons began and ended with a jail in Penetanguishene. Operation of Central North Correctional Centre was contracted out to a U.S.-based private company, which cut costs by understaffing the facility, increasing risks to correctional officers, inmates, and the surrounding community. In 2002, inmates rioted and attempted to escape. An internal Corrections tactical unit quelled the riot, while 63 police officers had to be called in to secure the perimeter. The prison was brought back to public control in 2006 after an independent review compared it to a similar, publicly run jail in Lindsay and found public was better — the public facility had better security and prisoners were less likely to commit further crimes after serving their sentences there.



Better staffing, safer communities, and lower repeat offender rates – just three reasons Ontario returned a private jail in Penetanguishene to public hands.

---

## 05. Public services ensure fairness

---

Public services should be equally accessible to all Ontario residents. But when private companies deliver public services, they often create two-tiered systems, maintaining services and service areas that are profitable, and cutting those that don't make money.



## Publicly delivered services are more accessible

Ontario residents witnessed a classic case of “cream-skimming” when the province introduced for-profit MRI clinics. The new clinics quickly began centralizing services in large urban centres, since larger markets offer higher volumes of business and more potential profit. This centralization led to the closure of clinics in “unprofitable” small towns, even though in some cases, the private company had received extra public subsidies to maintain small town clinics. This forced rural patients to travel many kilometers outside of their communities to receive care.

---

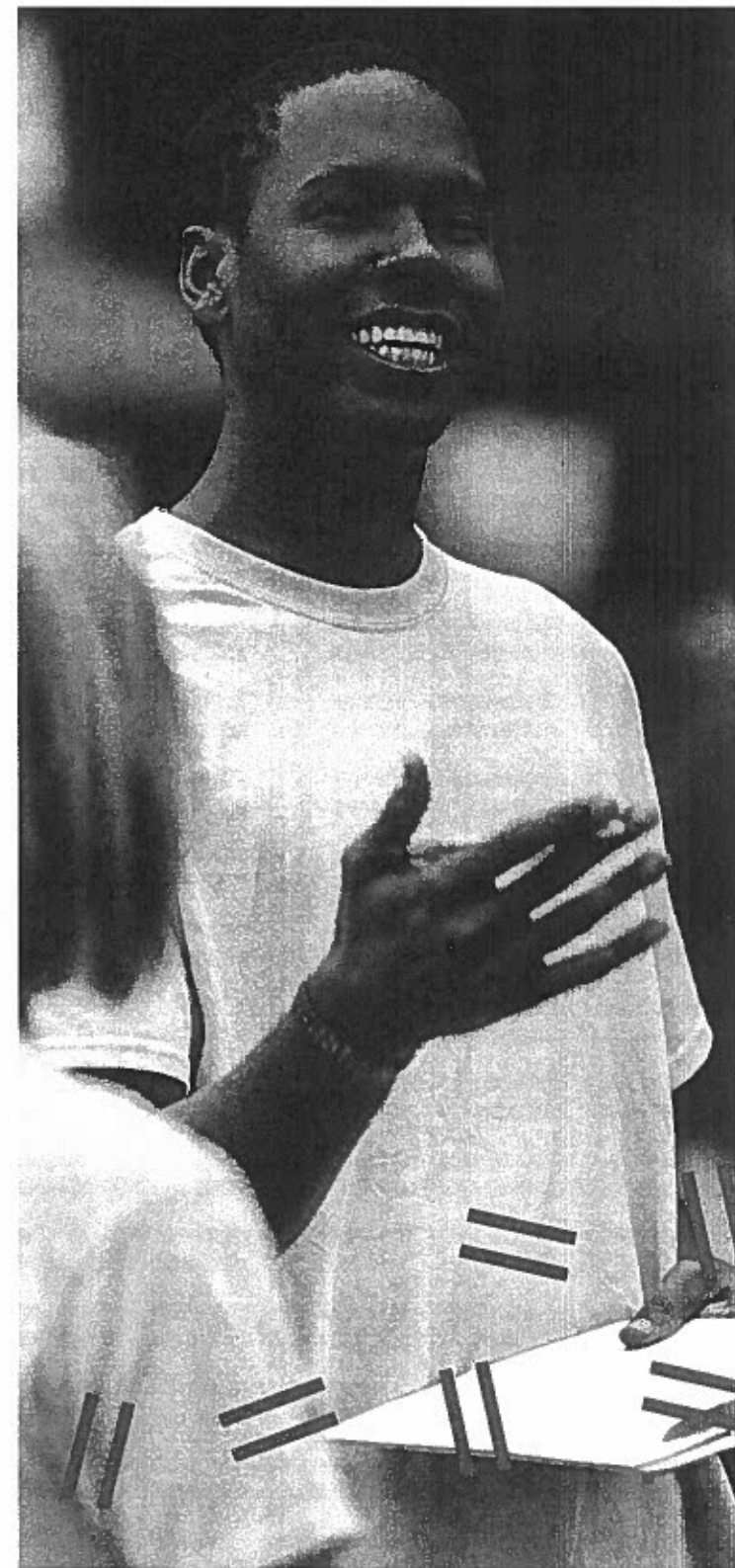
# What you can do to save public services

---

Don't let vital assets and services be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Show your support for public services at [WeOwnIt.ca](http://WeOwnIt.ca).

## How you can get involved:

- Sign up as a volunteer
- Connect with others and spread the word on social media
- Attend an event near you
- Canvass within your community
- Demand your community be consulted about future plans to privatize services
- Take a lawn sign







**PUBLIC FOREVER**

## We Own It

Join the grassroots  
movement to save public  
services in Ontario.

[WeOwnIt.ca](http://WeOwnIt.ca)



@WeOwnItCA



weownitCanada



---

**We can help you do  
all of this and more at  
[WeOwnIt.ca](http://WeOwnIt.ca)**



**@WeOwnItCA**



**weownitCanada**

# PUBLIC=BETTER

Public services and assets  
like highways, hospitals,  
medical labs, and hydro,  
are being sold off  
to generate profits  
for private corporations  
instead of serving our communities.  
There's a better option.



[www.wewonit.ca](http://www.wewonit.ca)



[www.facebook.com/weownitcanada](https://www.facebook.com/weownitcanada)



[@weownitca](https://twitter.com/weownitca)

The public sector.  
We built it. We built for it.

We Own It

## The costs of privatization VS. the benefits of public services

Quality public services help keep your communities healthy, safe, and prosperous. But mounting evidence shows that privatized public services provide lower quality for a higher price. Just a few of many examples:

- Privatized hydro rates are more than 300% higher than public rates had been. Additionally, privatized hydro costs the province \$500 million in lost revenue. Every year. Forever.
- Privatized medical lab tests are slower than public tests done in hospitals. Privatized tests are also 50% more expensive, costing us an extra \$200 million extra a year.
- Privatized snow clearance leaves highways snow-packed and dangerous for twice as long (four hours instead of two). Also, 75 per cent of privatized highway maintenance providers charge more than public crews cost.

The good news is that communities across Ontario and Canada are reaping significant benefits by in-sourcing services that had previously been privatized:

- The provincial government tried a privatized jail in Penetanguishine in the early 2000s. But it proved to be much less safe and effective than a similar public jail near Peterborough. (Inmates released from the private jail were more likely to commit more crimes than inmates from the public jail.) The community convinced the government to bring the Penetanguishine jail back into the public fold; quality and safety have improved.
- Hamilton has saved more than \$5 million since in-sourcing its water treatment system.
- In Toronto, a successful grass-roots campaign forced Mayor John Tory to back away from a back room deal to privatize Toronto Hydro. The selloff of Toronto Hydro would have reduced Toronto's operating budget by \$50 million, leading to cuts in city services or higher taxes.

**Your community can  
reap the benefits of in-sourcing  
and keeping its public services public!  
We Own It can help.**

[www.wewonit.ca](http://www.wewonit.ca) | [www.facebook.com/weownitcanada](https://www.facebook.com/weownitcanada) | [@weownitca](https://twitter.com/weownitca)

Case study no. 02

## Ontario tried privately run prisons. But what happened in Penetanguishene shows that publicly run prisons are safer — for everyone.

"We have to take inmates out into the community all the time. I'm not sure the public knows the risks — or the skills and training that we bring to the job."

— ANDREW PARKER  
PENETANGUSHENE  
DECEMBER 5, 2006

## Publicly run prisons mean lower repeat offender rates and safer communities.

Ontario's brief experiment with privately run prisons began and ended with a jail in Penetanguishene. Operation of Central North Correctional Centre was contracted out to a U.S.-based private company, which cut costs by understaffing the facility, increasing risks to correctional officers, inmates, and the surrounding community. In 2002, inmates rioted and attempted to escape. An internal Corrections tactical unit quelled the riot, while 63 police officers had to be called in to secure the perimeter.

The prison was brought back to public control in 2006 after an independent review compared it to a similar, publicly run jail in Lindsay and found public was better — the public facility had better security and prisoners were less likely to commit further crimes after serving their sentences there.

## Why is public better?

### 1. Public services save money.

When a private cancer treatment clinic opened in Toronto in 2001, it charged \$500 more per procedure than public treatment centres did.

### 2. Public services offer better quality.

In Ottawa, where private contractors do waste collection in some neighbourhoods, complaints about privatized service are significantly higher: 15 calls for every 10,000 houses, compared to 10 in the rest of the city.

### 3. Public services are more accountable.

Ontario's auditor general recently reported that private contractors had overcharged the public by more than \$8 billion in unnecessary fees and expenses.

### 4. Public services are safer.

Untreated human waste, chemicals and heavy metals poured into Hamilton's water system after a failure at a wastewater treatment centre managed by private contractors. The public was left to deal with the \$2.5 million cleanup bill.

Get the facts at [WeOwnIt.ca](http://WeOwnIt.ca)