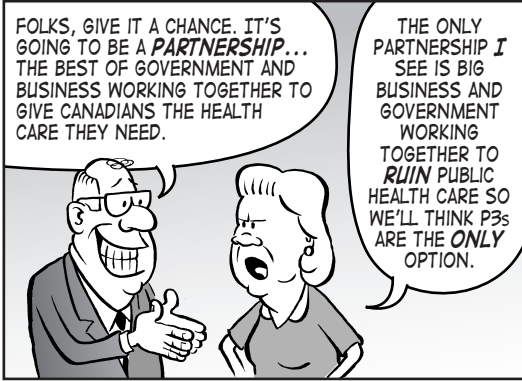


For-profit health care is sneaking its way into Canada's health care system through "P3s"

BEWARE OF "PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS"

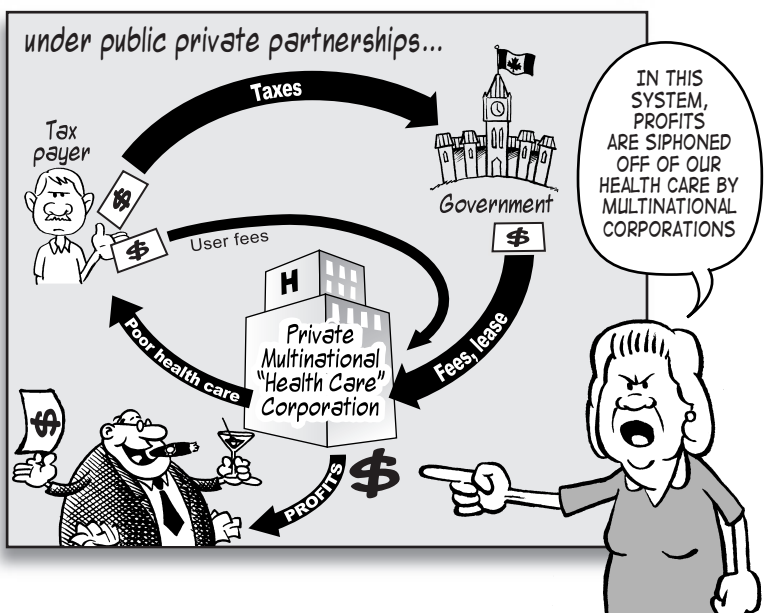
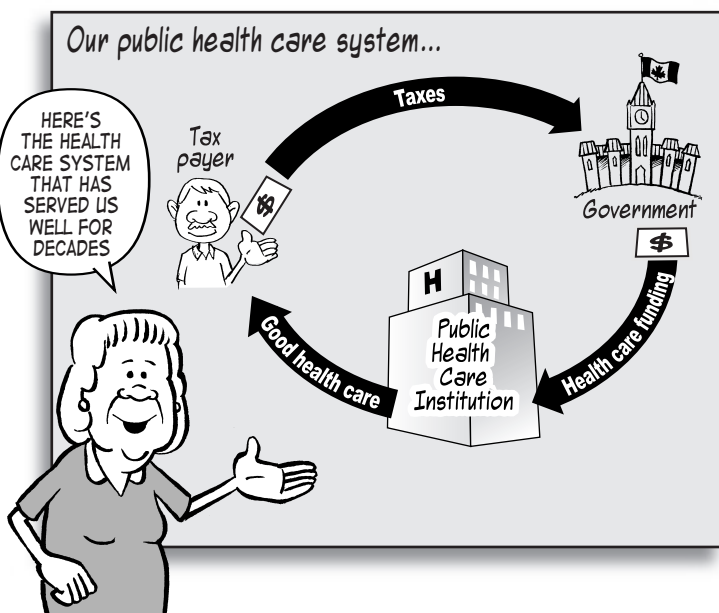


Some provincial governments are talking about saving our "crumbling" health care system with 'public private partnerships', also called P3s. Canadians should be very, very concerned. P3s are a sneaky way for governments to privatize health care – all the while saying they're committed to the public system.



WHAT "PARTNERSHIP"?

Partnership. It sounds really nice, doesn't it? But what it's really about is private corporations owning the infrastructure and governments paying to use it. Here's how it works: a private corporation builds, finances, runs and owns the hospital and runs many of its services. The government pays the corporation all kinds of fees to use the hospital over decades. The fees charged by the corporation — which get paid with our taxes — cover their construction and borrowing costs, maintenance, services, AND (...here's the clincher...) **THEIR PROFITS!**

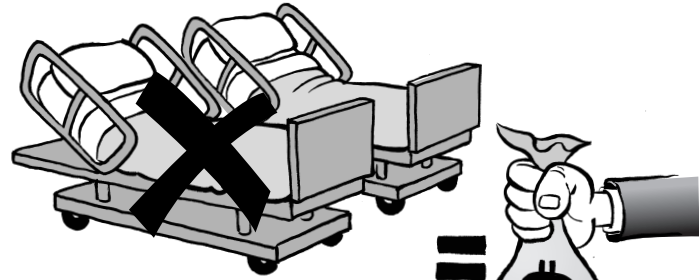




POORER SERVICE...THAT COSTS MORE!

Corporations are into health care for the money — period. They look for cheaper and more 'efficient' ways of doing things to increase profits for their shareholders and CEOs.

This hurts the quality of care — corporations will cut corners by reducing the number of beds and staff, and charging user fees for services. It all means



worse patient care — and healthy corporate profits.

P3s also mean we'll pay more — just ask any provincial auditor! When a corporation borrows money to build a hospital, it simply can never get interest rates as low as those that governments can get.



CANCELLED!
P3
CANCELLED!

The more P3s pop up, the more people and governments realize they're a bad idea. A few years ago, Nova Scotia started awarding contracts for P3 schools. But by 2000, facing strong public opposition and a provincial audit showing the schools would cost millions more, the government cancelled plans for any more P3 schools. In PEI, the government pulled out of a P3 hospital project after a community campaign revealed it would cost more than a public hospital. The new hospital is going ahead — as a **fully public** facility.



P3 HOSPITALS IN BRITAIN — A FAILURE!

Britain has invested heavily in P3 hospitals, and the results have not been encouraging. P3s have led to 30% fewer hospital beds and a 25% cut in staff. Short-cuts in construction and design have created shocking problems, like collapsing ceilings, sewage back-ups, offices too small to work in, and on and on.



TAKE ACTION AGAINST P3s!

P3s are really just privatization in disguise. There is a better alternative. Canadians can have hospital facilities that are **fully publicly owned and operated!** Say **NO** to P3s!



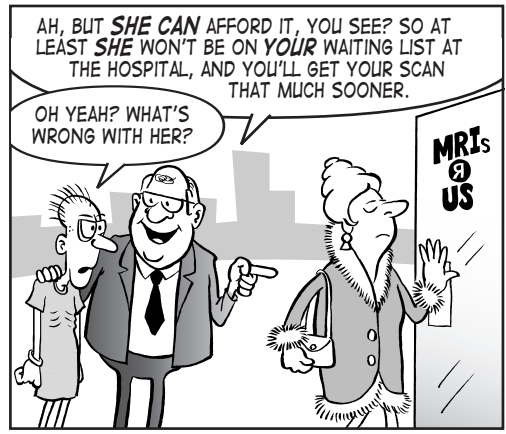
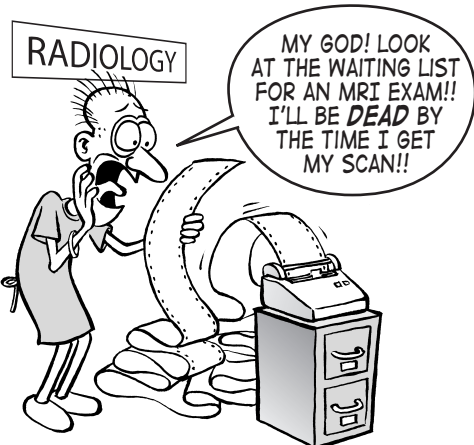
Contact your local health coalition for actions in your community



Tell your local candidates in the next provincial or territorial election that P3s are not your idea of good public health care!

The more private MRI clinics pop up, the more people realize they waste health care resources and only serve the rich.

PRIVATE MRI CLINICS ARE A BAD IDEA

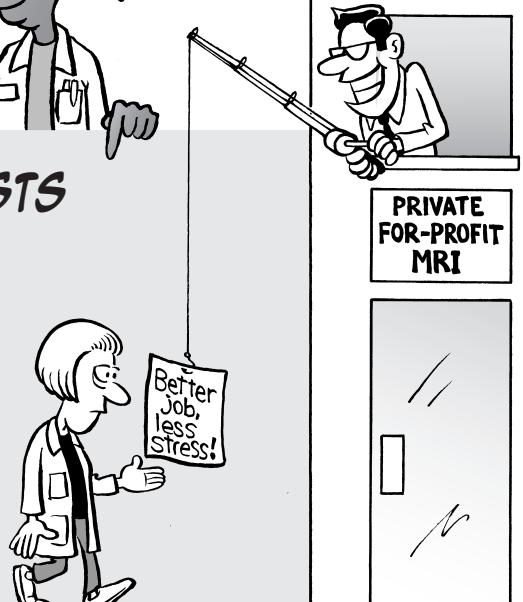


MRI and CT scans are very important tools in our health care system today. They help doctors detect serious problems like brain tumors, diseased organs, and many other things. Unfortunately, waiting lists to get a scan are very long — and people who are forced to wait often worry that their condition is getting worse. In 2001, the federal government gave money to the provinces and territories to deal with the problem of waiting lists. But instead of improving the public clinics, some provinces — like Ontario, Alberta and B.C. — have used the money to invest in private, for-profit MRI clinics. These clinics will not help our health care system.



THEY WON'T REDUCE WAITING LISTS

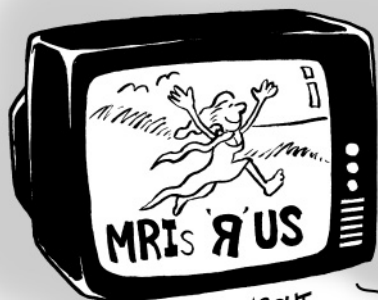
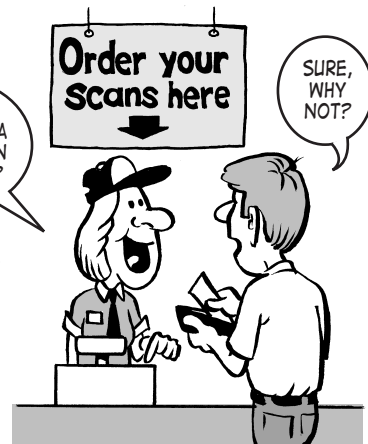
There aren't enough technicians around to meet all of our MRI and CT scan needs. Machines in hospitals are already under-used because of cutbacks and staffing shortages. When private, for-profit clinics open, the only way they can get technicians is by offering jobs to those working the public machines! Often, they're able to offer better salaries because they only do the easiest, most profitable scans, while leaving the more difficult cases to the public system.





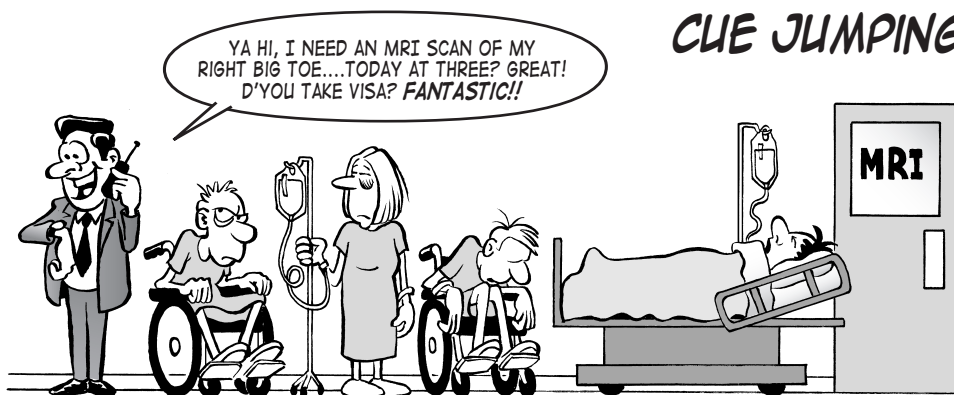
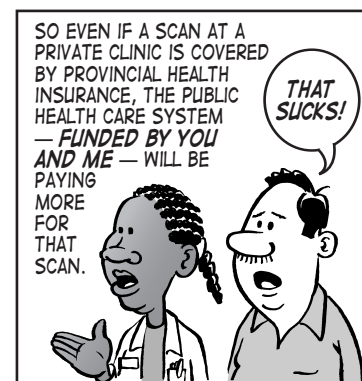
UNNECESSARY SCANS

Private operators won't take up the MRI "business" unless it's profitable. So to make it profitable, some governments are allowing private clinics to do scans that aren't medically necessary. In this case anyone can decide they need a scan — if they're willing to pay. Some clinics are even allowing people to get their pets scanned! With private clinics wasting time and resources, they don't help reduce waiting lists in the public system at all!



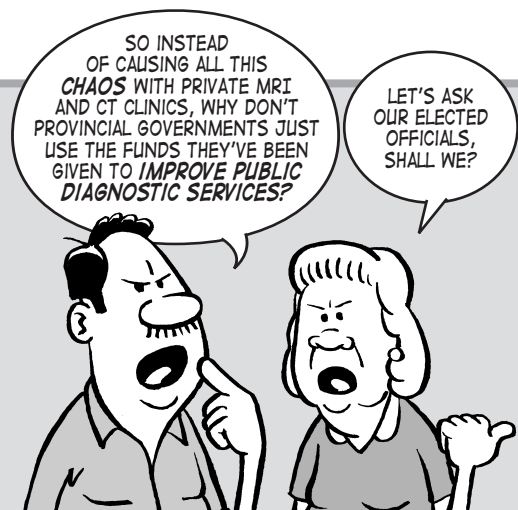
PRIVATE SCANS COST MORE!

There are many costs involved in running a business, which could make private MRI and CT scans more costly. One example is advertizing. In order to attract business, private clinics have to advertise, and that can be very expensive. Another example is profits. Without profits, private businesses aren't interested in providing a service. Naturally, these and other costs must be included in the price of the scan. These are costs that we never have to worry about when things are run publicly.



CUE JUMPING: IT JUST AIN'T FAIR!

Our health care system is based on fairness. In terms of diagnostic scans, this means everybody waits their turn, and the sickest people get seen first. But now, private diagnostic clinics are allowing people who have less urgent problems to pay their way and "jump the cue". Since they get diagnosed earlier, they can get treated by doctors months before sicker people who might not have the money.



TAKE ACTION AGAINST PRIVATE DIAGNOSTIC CLINICS!

- ➡ Contact your local health coalition for actions in your community.
- ➡ Tell your provincial or territorial government that new money for health care must go to public, not-for-profit diagnostic services.