



PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crisis denying.

There were dozens of emergency department closures over the summer because of the shortage of nurses. Even though this truth is painfully obvious, the new health minister and the Ontario government are trying to divert attention away from the root problem. They talk about adding beds and building hospitals, but that's just a waste of taxpayer dollars when there's not enough staff to provide care.

Nurses and physicians have made it clear - solving the staffing crisis must be the first priority. The government has already missed a huge opportunity to step back from wage suppression and acknowledge that fair compensation for nurses is key to retention and recruitment, and a first step to reducing additional closures.

Government spin and attacks on public health care are a distraction Ontario can't afford. It's time to bring health-care professionals to the table to work together on solutions that will ensure all patients have a public health-care system they can count on.



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