



# SOS

## MEDICARE 3.0 CONFERENCE

+ **POLITICAL ACTION  
TRAINING**

**PROGRAM**

FEBRUARY 24-25 2025



## DAY 1 - FEBRUARY 24, 2025

**8:00-9:00 AM** - Registration/check-in

**9:00-9:05 AM** - Call to order by Anne Lagacé Dowson, Media Director, Canadian Health Coalition

**9:05-9:10 AM** - Opening by Algonquin knowledge keeper Monique Manatch

**9:10-9:30 AM** - Welcome by Jason MacLean, Chair, Canadian Health Coalition, and Linda Silas, President, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

**9:30-10:00 AM** - Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health

**Moderator:** Linda Silas, President, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

**Discussant:** Frédérique Chabot, Executive Director, Action Canada for Sexual and Health Rights  
Q&A from the audience

**10:00-10:30 AM** - NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh

**Moderator:** Siobhán Vipond, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress

**Discussant:** Dr. Brandon Doucet, Founder, Coalition for Dental Care  
Q&A from the audience

**10:30-11:00 AM - Break**

**11:00-11:30 AM** - Uzoma Asagwara, Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care of Manitoba

**Discussant:** Pat Armstrong, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, York University

**Moderator:** Sharon DeSousa, President, Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Q&A from the audience

**11:30 AM-12:00 PM** - What we heard this morning

**Facilitators:** Rita Morbia, Co-Manager, Inter Pares, and Anne Lagacé Dowson, Media Director, Canadian Health Coalition  
Reflections from the audience

**12:00-1:00 PM - Lunch provided**

**1:00-1:30 PM – Fireside chat** with Greg Marchildon, author of *Tommy Douglas and the Quest for Medicare in Canada*

**Moderator:** Anne Lagacé Dowson, Media Director, Canadian Health Coalition

Q&A from the audience

**1:30-2:30 PM – Protecting Medicare and stopping health care privatization**

Jocelyne (Jo) Voisin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Policy Branch, Health Canada

Dr. Isabelle Leblanc, President, Médecins québécois pour le régime public

Steven Staples, National Director of Policy and Advocacy, Canadian Health Coalition

**Moderator:** Pam Parks, Registered Practical Nurse and President of CUPE Local 6364

Q&A from the audience

**2:30-3:00 PM – Break**

**3:00-3:30 PM – Building Indigenous health equity and justice in Canada**

Janice Willier, Sucker Creek First Nation, Treaty 8, and board member of Friends of Medicare

**Discussant:** Marilee Nowgesic, First Nations / Eagle clan, Member of Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay, and CEO of the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association

**Moderator:** Natalie Appleyard, Citizens for Public Justice

Q&A from the audience

**3:30-4:30 PM – Making Medicare more universal**

Fae Johnstone, Executive Director, Society of Queer Momentum

DJ Larkin, Executive Director, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

Y.Y. Chen, migrant health legal scholar, University of Ottawa

**Moderator:** Nikolas Barry-Shaw, Trade and Privatization Campaigner, Council of Canadians

Q&A from the audience

**4:30-4:45 PM – Nell Toussaint Award Presentation**

**Presenters:** Tracy Glynn, National Director of Projects and Operations, Canadian Health Coalition, Jason MacLean, Chair, Canadian Health Coalition, Dr. Mathew Abraham

**Award recipient:** Kerian Burnett

**4:45-5:00 PM – Closing remarks** by Jason MacLean, Chair, Canadian Health Coalition and Linda Silas, President, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

**5:00-7:00 PM – Reception**

# DAY 2 - FEBRUARY 25, 2025

## WORKERS TOGETHER: CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS POLITICAL ACTION TRAINING

### Putting health care on the election agenda

#### 9:00-10:15 AM - What's at stake in this election and our plan

**9:05-9:10 AM** - Welcome by Siobhán Vipond, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress

**9:10-9:50 AM** - Political landscape with Brent Farrington, Canadian Labour Congress

**9:50-10:00 AM** - Health care in Québec with Françoise Ramel, Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ)

**10:00-10:15 AM** - Polling with Siobhán Vipond, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress

#### 10:15-10:30 AM - Break

#### 10:30-11:15 AM - Stories from the frontline

Kane Tse, computational biologist and president of the Health Sciences Association of British Columbia

Joseé-Anne Spirito, nurse and Regional Executive Vice-President for the North, Public Service Alliance of Canada

Cora Mojica, food service worker at Vancouver General Hospital and the Ethnic Diversity DVP of the Hospital Employees Union (HEU), a B.C. health services division of CUPE.

Facilitator: Elizabeth Kwan, Canadian Labour Congress

#### 11:15 AM-12:00 PM - Workshop: Issues and you

With Canadian Labour Congress

#### 12:00-1:00 PM - Lunch provided

#### 1:00-4:00 PM - Workshop: Empowering Issue-Based Campaigners/Tough conversations

Facilitators: Katia El-Mokdad and Felicity Samuel, Canadian Labour Congress

**4:00-4:10 PM** - Ivy Bourgeault, Director, Health Care Workforce Network

**4:10-4:20 PM** - Tyler Downey, President, SEIU Healthcare

**4:20-4:25 PM** - Wrap-up with Siobhán Vipond, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress, and Jason MacLean, Chair, Canadian Health Coalition

**4:30 PM** - Closing by Algonquin knowledge keeper Monique Manatch

## SPEAKERS | FACILITATORS



**Natalie Appleyard** is the Socio-Economic Policy Analyst for Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) and a board member of the Canadian Health Coalition.



**Pat Armstrong** is a Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, York University, a board member of the Canadian Health Coalition and author of many books on care work and privatization.



**Uzoma Asagwara** is the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care of Manitoba, and Member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly for Union Station.



**Nikolas Barry-Shaw** is the Trade and Privatization Campaigner with the Council of Canadians, leading the Council's campaign for public, single-payer pharmacare.



**Ivy Bourgeault**, PhD, is a Professor in the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies at the University of Ottawa, University Research Chair in Gender, Diversity and the Professions, and leads the Canadian Health Workforce Network.



**Frédérique Chabot** is the Executive Director for Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, a national organization championing sexual and reproductive rights in Canada and globally.



**Y.Y. Chen** is an Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law. A lawyer and social worker by training, Chen's research examines laws and policies at the intersection of health and international migration.



**Sharon DeSousa** is the President of the Public Service Alliance of Canada.



**Brandon Doucet** is a dentist, founder of Coalition for Dentalcare and author of *About Canada: Dental Care* (Fernwood).



**Tyler Downey** is the President for SEIU Healthcare.



**Brent Farrington** is the National Director, Political Action & Communications, Canadian Labour Congress.



**Anne Lagacé Dowson** is the Media Director of the Canadian Health Coalition.



**Katia El-Mokdad** is the Digital Organizer, Political Action & Communications, with the Canadian Labour Congress.



**Tracy Glynn** is the National Director of Projects and Operations of the Canadian Health Coalition.



**Hon. Mark Holland** is Canada's Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Ajax.



**Fae Johnstone** is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Society of Queer Momentum.



**Elizabeth Kwan** is the Senior Researcher with the Canadian Labour Congress.



**DJ Larkin** is a human rights lawyer and Executive Director of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition.



**Dr. Isabelle Leblanc** is the Chair of Médecins québécois pour le régime public.



**Jason MacLean** is the Chair of the Canadian Health Coalition and the Secretary-Treasurer of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE).



**Monique Manatch** is a Knowledge Keeper and member of the Algonquins of Barriere Lake.



**Gregory Marchildon** is Professor Emeritus, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, and Founding Director of the North American Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.



**Cora Mojica** is the Ethnic Diversity DVP of the Hospital Employees Union (HEU), a B.C. health services division of CUPE. She is a food service worker at Vancouver General Hospital.



**Rita Morbia** works for the feminist social justice organization, Inter Pares, and is the Co-Treasurer of the Canadian Health Coalition.



**Marilee Nowgesic** is a member of the Eagle clan, Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay, and CEO of the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association.



**Pam Parks** is a Registered Practical Nurse and President of CUPE Local 6364.



**Françoise Ramel** is the Vice-President of Fédération Interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ).



**Felicity Samuel** is an educator, organizer and facilitator with the Canadian Labour Congress.



**Linda Silas** has been the President of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) since 2003.



**Jagmeet Singh** is the NDP Leader and Member of Parliament for Burnaby South.



**José-Anne Spirito** is the Regional Executive Vice-President for the North, Public Service Alliance of Canada.



**Steven Staples** is the National Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Canadian Health Coalition.



**Kane Tse** is a computational biologist and President of the Health Sciences Association, representing over 22,000 allied health care professionals in BC.



**Siobhán Vipond** is the Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress.



**Jocelyne (Jo) Voisin** is the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister at Health Canada's Health Policy Branch, which is responsible for pan-Canadian health system policy and the department's strategic policy functions.



**Janice Willier** is First Nations Cree Iskeww from Sucker Creek First Nation in Treaty 8 Territory.

For the bios of all conference participants, visit: [sosmedicare.ca](http://sosmedicare.ca)