



## Social Services

### People in Ontario need social services:

Social services workers provide the supports people need to build safe, healthy and caring communities. In spite of increased demand for social services in Ontario, these services are being dismantled, restructured, privatized or eliminated.

### What happens when social services are cut?

**Staffing cuts** - Provincial and municipal funding cuts have meant reduced agency staffing levels.

**Service and program cuts** - Fewer workers means reduced services and programs.

**Closures** - Several outright closures including childcare centre, developmental services and community programs have been eliminated.

**Increased privatization** - As public social services are cut, private social services expand. Private for-profit childcare now provides 25% of the childcare spaces in Ontario.

**Concessionary demands** - Employers are demanding concessions from workers in order to subsidize the cost of maintaining services.

**Long waitlists** – 23,000 families on waitlists for residential, respite and day program developmental services - thousands of families on waitlists to access public, affordable child care spaces.

**Kids at risk** – The \$50.6 million provincial shortfall for child welfare is forcing agencies to cut staffing levels, jeopardizing the ability of agencies to meet their mandate to protect at-risk children and youth.

**Poverty & increased inequality** – Thousands of Ontarians live in poverty with low wages, precarious part-time, contract or temporary work and inadequate disability and social assistance rates. There are fewer supports for people with disabilities, at-risk youth and women at risk of violence.



## What can we do?

- Talk with our co-workers – make sure every member of our union understands the impact of cuts to government revenue and funding for social services on jobs and the services we deliver.
- Resist concessions – there is no guarantee that funding saved through concessions will be re-invested in services; when we defend the quality of jobs, we are also defending the quality of social services and vice versa.
- Organize with our co-workers, families, community allies, to defend jobs and social services from further cuts – when jobs are cut, the quality of social services suffers and we don't have the services we need to care for our kids, families and communities.