

Time is running out.

During this year's contract negotiations, nurses and health-care professionals took to the streets to demand better staffing, working conditions, and compensation, improvements aimed at increasing the number of nurses to achieve better patient care. Those talks broke down without an agreement. There's a direct line between this situation and the Ford government, which has been underfunding health care and <u>undervaluing nurses</u> for years. It's like Ford wants the public system to fail.

Nurses are highly valued in other jurisdictions for their skills and education. But in Ontario, Doug Ford suppressed nurses' wages and suspended their right to fair bargaining, actions that made the nursing shortage worse. Employers and the government need to prove - right now - that nurses are valued here, too. Because the clock is ticking.

