

Should There Be More Space for Healthcare Privatization in Canada?

No

*Here are some of the reasons why people might argue that we **should not** allow for more privatization in Canadian healthcare systems.*

It will make staffing issues worse

Public healthcare employees who have left their jobs have reported burnout as a major reason for their departure, with many choosing to work in private facilities for a better work-life balance. Allowing private companies to supply staff for struggling hospitals makes the problems worse over time, by creating more healthcare jobs in the private sector, and creating more opportunities for companies to poach staff from public hospitals and clinics.

Lack of evidence for success

Opponents have argued that privatization could decrease the quality of healthcare because private companies tend to prioritize profit over care. [Studies from the United Kingdom](#), which has both a public healthcare system similar to Canada's and over a hundred private hospitals, have shown that private healthcare is linked to increased rates of preventable deaths, and that there is a lack of evidence to show it reduces wait times in the long run.

It's expensive

Private companies delivering health care may choose to charge taxpayers very high rates. [A study of privatized healthcare costs in Québec](#) shows that the price tag for many procedures more than doubles from public to private settings. This could result in higher taxes or reduced services elsewhere.

It creates a two-tier system

Opponents argue that while the province overpays for its healthcare by giving taxpayer money to private companies, the quality of care in our public healthcare system continues to decrease. Private clinics draw staff and residents away from public institutions, which makes the problems that public institutions face even worse. The result could be a two-tier system: one where wealthy people can pay to get faster access to quality healthcare, and everyone else has to deal with a lesser, weakened public system.

Read More:

- [Private health care won't reduce wait times — it may raise them, report says](#) | Global News
- [Increased private-sector involvement may push health-care system over the edge, Manitoba experts say](#) | CBC