

## **Bill 130, An Act Respecting Community Care Access Corporations**

This Bill, which replaces the Community Care Access Centres with new Corporations, was passed December 13 and given royal assent on December 14. There were no public hearings and no amendments were made on third reading. The Government is now free to replace the current CCACs with the new Corporations. It is rumoured that they will do this in stages: we don't know where Ottawa-Carleton will fit into their schedule.

It will be some considerable time before those receiving services will note any changes. They may expect to have the same case manager, the same company or organization will provide the services, and they will still have the same in-home service provider. What will have changed, and changed dramatically, is the organizational structure of the CCAC (now Community Care Access Corporation).

This Government developed the present CCAC structure to provide one-stop shopping for community health care and it set up all the rules for their operation. The initial Board of Directors, appointed by the Government, hired an Executive Director to control its operations. Memberships were sold and, over a three year phasing-out period, the initial Board was replaced by elected members. At times these new Boards have been critical of the Ministry, especially with respect to the adequacy of funding. The Government has felt that some CCACs were not being fiscally responsible or running their operations in an efficient manner. The new Corporations are being brought in to correct these deficiencies. Many CCACs, including Ottawa-Carleton, have always followed the Ministry directives, have never run a deficit, and consider that they have made prudent use of Ministry funds. However, all except two of the present CCACs, including Ottawa-Carleton will be replaced by the new Corporations.

These new Corporations will come under the direct control of the Ministry, which will appoint Boards of Directors; and hire, fire, and determine the terms of employment of the Executive Director. It has been stated that the new Boards will consist of five to seven members, and that there will be no consumer representation on these Boards. In contrast, our present CCAC Board has twelve members, to be increased to fifteen next term, to better manage the heavy work load. One third of its members are consumer representatives. The new Corporations will also establish community advisory councils, the composition and duties of which will be established by regulation. A major role may be liaison between hospitals, nursing homes and community care.

There has been considerable criticism of the establishment of the new Corporations from CCAC Board representatives throughout Ontario. Replacing elected representatives with a strong local and consumer focus with autocratic control from Queens Park is a major shift in direction. It will be some time before we see how this decision affects those who will depend upon the new Corporations for their services. It may be that the new Corporations will operate with efficiency and sensitivity, but your Social Action Committee will continue to monitor the situation. Members can assist us by telling us of any changes in services that you experience after the new Corporations

take control, either by sending an email to [info.ottawa@mssociety.ca](mailto:info.ottawa@mssociety.ca) (entitled CCAC Service) or by calling Laurie Cucheran-Morris at 728-1583, extension 106 at the Chapter office.