

"Where's my job, Bob?"

I need to know before I vote!

An open letter to Bob Runciman, MPP, Leeds-Grenville

July 4, 2003

Dear Bob:

**Health
care cuts**

**500 jobs
– GONE**

**Brockville
needs
solutions**

Brockville Psychiatric Hospital (BPH), the largest employer in town, will be closing its doors in the next 18 months. The loss to the community will be huge.

- With BPH gone, there will be far fewer hospital beds, and fewer health services, for people with mental illness.
- In 1995, BPH had 350 beds, including 136 acute care beds. By 2006, all that will be left in this community is a 44-bed forensic unit (for the criminally mentally ill) and 24 acute care beds.
- People who desperately need a few weeks of hospital treatment simply won't get it. The new jail and treatment centre won't do a thing for them.
- Shutting BPH will cost the community 273 front-line health care jobs (net) plus management jobs. The community will lose a payroll of more than \$11 million.
- \$11 million in lost buying power will cost the community at least another 220* jobs, mostly in retail and small businesses. Local business profits will fall.

Bob, you and your government created this fiasco for Brockville. How are you going to fix it? My members and the community have a right to know.

The new jail and treatment centre won't cut it. You've already closed so many Ontario jails that there aren't enough jobs to go around.

Workers at BPH have contributed to their patients and to this community all their working lives. They want to keep contributing.

You assured them they would have work when BPH closes. Their question to you is, "Where's my job, Bob?"

They need to know your answer before they vote.

Sincerely,



Leah Casselman, President
Ontario Public Service Employees Union



*Estimate based on the formula developed by Informetrica Ltd.

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