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CP24 (CHUM/City Toronto) - Friday, September 10 2004 - 13:30 (Local) - Segment #3

Ann: LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT AND HOW DO YOU CHANGE THAT? AS JIM MENTIONED.

IT IS ABOUT CHANGING BEHAVIOURS. I THINK THE FIRST THING IS, LIKE-- IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE SOMETHING. RUNNING A HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO IS NOT AN EASY JOB. THESE ARE COMPLEX OPERATIONS. BUT THERE HAS BEEN A CULTURE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT INHERITED WHEREBY HOSPITALS HAVE SPENT WHATEVER THEY FELT THEY NEEDED TO SPEND AND SENT THE BILL ALONG AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND EXPECTED TO HAVE IT PAID. AND THIS IS NOT A WAY THAT OUR PROVINCE CAN OPERATE, BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO OPERATE WITHIN THE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE. EVERYBODY DOES IN HEALTH CARE. THIS YEAR IN ONTARIO, WE'VE GIVEN HOSPITALS ALMOST A HALF A BILLION DOLLARS IN NEW FUNDING. RIGHT NOW THEY MAKE THE ARGUMENT THAT THAT'S NOT A SATISFACTORY AMOUNT, BUT MY ARGUMENT BACK IS YOU'VE GOT TO SHOW ME THAT YOU CAN FIND SAVINGS IN NON-CLINICAL AREAS, THAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE WAY TO OPERATE OUR SYSTEM IN A FASHION WHICH PROTECTS THOSE ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY'VE GONE AND ROOTED OUT ALL OF THE EXPENDITURE THAT THEY CAN IN ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS AROUND COMMUNICATION SERVICES AND THOSE SORT OF THINGS, THAT THE GOVERNMENT REALLY NEEDS TO HOLD THE LINE. WELL, LET ME MAKE ONE MORE POINT, ANN. WE HAVEN'T SAID THAT TO HOSPITALS ALONE. WE'VE SAID WE CAN TAKE PRESSURE OFF OF YOU. WE CAN DIVERT TRAFFIC FROM YOUR EMERGENCY ROOM BY ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF CARE AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL. SO WE'VE INVESTED \$600 MILLION THIS YEAR IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THAT HADN'T SEEN A NEW PENNY IN 12 YEARS, IN \$100 MILLION OF NEW MONEY FOR HOME CARE, IN OVER \$400 MILLION INVESTMENT TO EXPAND LONG-TERM CARE AND EACH ONE OF THESE INVESTMENTS CAN TAKE PRESSURE OFF OF OUR HOSPITALS AND FREE THEM UP TO DO THE THINGS THAT ONLY THEY CAN DO.

Ann: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SALARIES THAT PRESIDENTS AND C.E.O.s OF HOSPITALS MAKE?

LET JIM GO FIRST.

Ann: JIM?

Caller: I THINK THE C.E.O.s, IF THEY'RE QUALIFIED, IF THEY HAVE THE EDUCATION, FIRSTLY I DON'T SEE ANY DOCTORS RUNNING HOSPITALS.

THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM.

Caller: OR NURSES.

Ann: WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SALARYWISE OF C.E.O.s AND PRESIDENTS OF HOSPITALS ON AVERAGE? A COUPLE OF HUNDRED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR?

THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF HOSPITALS. YOU HAVE A LOT OF HOSPITALS THAT ARE QUITE SMALL OPERATIONS. THEY'RE IN DIFFERENT SIZES BUT I THINK THE REAL ISSUE ISN'T WHAT IS THEIR SALARY, BUT IN THIS TIME OF RESTRAINT, WHAT IS - WHAT ARE THE METHODS THAT THEY'RE USING AROUND RESTRAINT? I'VE SENT A PRETTY CLEAR SIGNAL, IN A VERY STRONGLY WORDED LETTER, TO ONTARIO'S HOSPITALS, BOARDS, C.E.O.s-- BOARD CHAIRS AND HOSPITAL C.E.O.s AND SAID THIS IS THE YEAR TO HOLD THE LINE. THIS IS THE YEAR OF RESTRAINT IN HEALTH CARE AND THAT'S THE EXPECTATION THAT I HAVE THAT THEY'RE GOING TO HOLD THE LINE AND LOOK FOR SAVINGS IN THOSE NON-CLINICAL AREAS. JUST TO JIM'S POINT, WE'VE GOT QUITE A FEW DOCTORS THAT ARE HOSPITAL C.E.O.s IN THIS PROVINCE, AND MANY, MANY NURSES AT THAT ARE SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS IN HOSPITALS AS WELL.