


Ontario Health atHome Newsletter


RTO Update




Dear members,

CUPE continues to fight back against the Ford government's reckless and short-sighted return-to-office (RTO) mandate. Last week, Premier Doug Ford ordered Crown employees, including those at Ontario Health atHome, back to the office five days per week. This move ignores the reality of our workplaces and the voices of workers who will be directly impacted.

 www.oh-home.cupe.ca

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Why we're concerned

As we raised in our letter to Premier Ford, this policy is unworkable and unfair. Ontario Health atHome has been operating on a hybrid model since the pandemic. In that time, the employer has sold off office space, leaving workers with inadequate and overcrowded workplaces.

- Many members no longer have assigned workstations. Instead, "desk hoteling" forces several employees to share a single desk.
- Ontario Health staff have also been moved into our already limited spaces, making conditions worse.
- The government is planning more restructuring in 2026 — meaning even they don't know what office space will be required.

Premier Ford's one-size-fits-all RTO order will not only disrupt our work but also risks wasting public money on unnecessary real estate instead of investing in front-line care.

Member Organizer Training Dates



Do you want to be involved? There is still time to register for the member organizer training! Dates are currently open for August, September, and October! Spots are filling up fast, so apply now!

Sign up for the newsletter

Want to stay up to date with CUPE's Ontario Health atHome campaign? Scan the QR code below and sign up for the newsletter today!



What CUPE is doing

We are taking strong action on multiple fronts to make sure your voices are heard:

- Meeting with the employer: On Monday, September 15, CUPE met directly with Ontario Health atHome management to press for solutions that protect members' working conditions and ensure quality services for patients.
- In the media: CUPE has been leading the public fight. Our media release and interviews — including with [Global News](#) — made clear the severe office space shortage and the harmful impact of Ford's policy. This media attention has prompted the government to announce they are conducting a review to work out if the government needs to lease more buildings to accommodate a full-time return to work. CUPE's message is clear: leasing new office space to enable the return to office is a complete waste of public funds!
- Op-ed in Queen's Park Observer: CUPE published an op-ed laying out why this policy is unworkable and urging the government to work with us to find real solutions.
- Letter to the Premier: We have drafted a letter for CUPE locals to send directly to Doug Ford, calling on him to maintain the current three-day hybrid model, ensure there is adequate office space for workers, and stop wasting public money on a political stunt.

What we're calling for

We continue to demand that the government:

1. Guarantee there is enough office space to meet workers' needs under the current three-day hybrid model.
2. Stop any new spending on real estate simply to enforce this inflexible RTO policy.
3. Work with CUPE and our members to create an effective workplace plan that meets the needs of both employees and employers — and ensures the best care for the communities we serve.

What's next

CUPE will keep fighting until this policy is scrapped or reformed. Together, we will make sure our workplaces are safe, sustainable, and supportive of the work we do every day.

