

SECTION ONE: THE LABOUR MARKET

THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS

ACTIVITY: Reading with Q&A

TIME: 1 hour

LEARNING OUTCOME: Participants will have gained experience in discussing issues related to the labour market for their profession.

DESCRIPTION:

- Organize participants by profession, if possible. Instruct learners to read the Labour Market section of the Resource Package and to complete the exercise on **page 9** of their workbooks.
- Circulate the room and provide support as needed.
- Have each group choose one or two representatives to report their findings back to the class.

NOTE: Answer keys are not provided for this exercise, since responses change over time.

THE LABOUR MARKET: TRENDS IN HEALTH CARE

Ontario's health care system is undergoing a restructuring. These changes are motivated by a number of factors: the need to contain health care costs, the aging of the population, new technologies, and a growing consensus in Canada that the health care system is only one of several major determinants of our population's health. As a result of these trends, we are seeing changes in the way health care services are delivered.

Community-based Care

The provincial government is shifting the emphasis of the health care system away from institutionally-based delivery models (physicians and hospital-based care) to community-based models of care. Community-based care emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention to increase the overall health of the population while co-ordinating the delivery of health care workers in the community – whether in hospices, long-term care facilities or the home.

Home Care

Home health care substitutes for the services of a hospital or long-term health facility. People who need long-term medical care can now stay in the comfort of their homes and receive medical treatment and help with their daily routines instead of staying in a hospital.

There are both private and public home care providers in Ontario. Home health care services are available through OHIP for people who are eligible. This includes people who are recovering from an illness or surgery, who have a chronic disease, who are elderly, or persons with disabilities. Home health care services include support services, nursing and therapies.

A Team Approach

Increasing emphasis is being put on the team approach to health care. A health care team can include physicians, nurses, therapists, technicians, other health care workers and, especially, the patient and his or her family.

Fewer Hospital Beds

Partly as a means to control expenses and partly as an effect of the shift toward community-based care, hospitals are being closed in many communities in Ontario. The reduction in hospital beds means that those patients who do remain in hospital are those who are the most ill or seriously injured and require highly specialized services.

Public Health & Health Promotion

Public health units are established by municipalities to administer health promotion and disease prevention programs. They inform the public about healthy life-styles, communicable diseases, including Sexually-Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, immunization, and the healthy growth and development of children, including parenting education.

**THE LABOUR MARKET:
THE IMPACT ON YOUR PROFESSION**

Using the material in the Resource Package for your profession, answer the following questions. When your group has answered all of the questions, chose one or two representatives to report your findings back to the class.

1. Identify at least three pressing issues facing currently facing members of your profession. (These issues may present threats or opportunities to members of your profession.)

2. How are members of your profession in Ontario coping with these issues or changes?

3. What major shifts in the labour market are happening in your profession? What is causing these shifts?

4. Do the changes affecting your profession impact on other health care workers?
