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## Morale of frontline workers at all-time low, panel says

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that have been historically underfunded in York.

"The health-care system that most of us here grew up with is not serving us as well (as in the past)," she added.

She said politicians should focus more on preventing illness, rather than just treating patients once they get ill.

Several panel members pointed to the deteriorating morale of frontline health-care providers such as doctors, nurses and home-care workers.

"The frustration level (among doctors) is very high

and the morale is very low," Dr. Zatzman complained, adding many physicians are burning out and leaving the profession while Ottawa and Queen's Park bicker about how to save medicare.

"It's almost like Nero who fiddled while Rome burned to the ground."

*It would be easier to tell you what you want to hear, but that's not my job. The amount we are spending on health care today is not sustainable.*

But Mr. Klees argued rather than just complaining about drawbacks in the system, doctors must be part of the solution.

Although only 2 per cent of doctors have enrolled in a provincial plan to establish family health clinics offering patients one-stop shopping for medical services, Mr. Klees urged physicians to

embrace the system.

"It would be easier to tell you what you want to hear, but that's not my job. The amount we are spending on health care today is not sustainable," he said.

Mr. Klees warned Ontario will be paying 75 per cent of its budget on health care in 15 years if funding challenges aren't addressed.

"I'm here to tell you it ain't possible. Even if the federal government comes to the table (with increased funding), it ain't possible," he said.

"Few people have not had to change the way they do things. Doctors will have to do the same thing. The wake-up call is just around the corner."

Audience members also offered some solutions to health-care challenges.

A nursing student, for example, urged hospitals to recruit new graduates rather than jettisoning around the world to entice nurses to Ontario.

Meanwhile, a foreign-trained doctor said there should be a way of allowing physicians such as himself to contribute to the system while waiting to get their Canadian medical licences.

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