

# Secure the Future of Medicare: A Call to Care



Health care in Canada is a fundamental right without distinction of race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, immigration status, and economic or social condition. Organizations representing millions of Canadians will mobilize to defend this right and to ensure that the following principles shape the direction of the Health Accord renewal:

- 1. The recognition of the highest attainment of health as a fundamental right throughout life and the necessity of preserving public health through active measures of promotion, prevention, and protection including such determinants as housing, food safety, income, education, environment, employment and peace.*
- 2. The recognition that many Aboriginal people have a poor health status and a high burden of disease. The current system is failing and requires a transformation of the relationship between Canada and its Aboriginal people to find solutions together. The Aboriginal people must be at the First Ministers discussions on the Health Accord as these solutions involve all levels of government.*
- 3. The recognition of health care as a public good for which no financial barriers must be erected. We affirm the need for a system of public health care which is organized on the basis of public administration, public insurance and the delivery of services on a public, not-for-profit basis.*
- 4. Opposition to any commercialization and privatization of health care. Therefore the federal government must negotiate a general exclusion of health services and health insurance from all trade agreements.*
- 5. The need for the federal government to fully assume its responsibilities in respect to health, particularly by securing the adequate and predictable federal health transfers and enforcement of the Canada Health Act.*
- 6. The reaffirmation of the original vision of a truly comprehensive public health care system for Canadians providing a continuum of services. The next steps are the expansion of the public system to include a universal Pharmacare plan, a system of home and community care, long-term care, and a strategy for mental health.*
- 7. The need to move towards a community-based, multi-disciplinary team approach to the management, organization and delivery of services, especially in primary care. Levels of services must be sufficient so that the burden of care does not fall on families, mainly women.*
- 8. An accountable health care system through democratic participation and transparent governance at all levels.*
- 9. The recognition that health care workers are critical to the effective operation of the health care system and that decent wages and working conditions are essential to high quality care.*

We come together to commit to ensuring that governments throughout Canada renew their commitment to protect and expand Canada's public health care system to meet the present and future needs of all people living in Canada, based on the principles (public administration, universality, comprehensiveness, accessibility and portability) and conditions (no extra billing or user fees, or queue-jumping) of the Canada Health Act. Regardless of where we live, it is now imperative to reaffirm the social values we all share. These values must guide our collective choices for future of health care. What stands between Medicare and its destruction are the peoples of Canada. Future generations are depending on our vigilance.

## ENDORSEMENTS (149)

- Action santé Outaouais
- Alliance Against Poverty
- Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux
- Alliance of Seniors to Protect Canada's Social Programs
- Alternatives North
- American Income Life Insurance Company
- Association coopérative d'économie familiale de Québec
- Association of Ontario Health Centres
- B.C. Health Coalition
- British Columbia Nurses Union
- Cambridge Provincial NDP Riding Association
- Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
- Canadian Congress of Union Retirees of Canada - Burlington Chapter
- Canadian Congress of Union Retirees of Canada - Hamilton Chapter
- Canadian Congress of Union Retirees of Canada - London Chapter
- Canadian Congress of Union Retirees of Canada - Oakville Chapter
- Canadian Doctors for Medicare
- Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Canadian Harm Reduction Network
- Canadian Health Coalition
- Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- Canadian Labour Congress
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
- Canadian Women's Health Network
- CAW 1325 Retired Workers Chapter
- CAW-Canada
- Centrale des syndicats du Québec
- Chatham Kent Health Coalition
- Citizens for Public Justice
- CNIC-Canada's National Interest Council
- Coalition des associations de consommateurs du Québec
- Coalition des tables régionales d'organismes communautaires
- Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Residents' Rights
- Coalition Solidarité Santé
- Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada
- Confédération des syndicats (CSN)
- Confédération des organismes de personnes handicapées du Québec
- Congress of Union Retirees of Canada
- Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain
- Conseil régional FTQ Montréal métropolitain
- Cornwall & District Labour Council
- Council of Canadians
- Council of Canadians - Brockville Chapter
- Council of Canadians - Guelph Chapter
- Council of Canadians - Kawarthas Chapter

- Council of Canadians - Peterborough Chapter
- Council of Canadians - Toronto Chapter
- Council of Canadians, Nelson-West Kootenay Chapter
- CUPE Local 1302 (Queen's University Library Technicians)
- CUPE Local 1999 (Lakeridge Health)
- CUPE Local 4480 (Lanark County Paramedics)
- CUPE Local 894 (Group Health Centre, Sault Ste. Marie)
- Department of Community Development and Social Work, Algoma University
- Education and Practice Narratives in the Health Professions
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- Ethical Action Committee
- Fédération de la santé du Québec
- Fédération des femmes du Québec
- Fédération des syndicats de la santé et des services sociaux
- Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ)
- Friends of Medicare Alberta
- Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain
- Guardian Angels Program
- Guelph Wellington Health Coalition
- Hamilton Health Coalition
- Health Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Health for All
- Health Nexus
- Health Providers Against Poverty
- Inter Pares
- InterChurch Health Ministries Canada
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- Kamloops Health Coalition
- Kingston Faith & Justice Coalition
- Les Frères et Soeurs d'Émile-Nelligan
- London and District Labour council
- London Health Coalition
- Louis Riel Bolivarian Circle
- MacKillop Centre for Social Justice
- Manitoba Nurses Union
- Médecins québécois pour le régime public
- Medical Reform Group
- Mnaamodzawin Health Services
- N.S. Citizens' Health Care Network
- National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- New Brunswick Federation of Union Retirees
- New Brunswick Health Coalition
- New Brunswick Nurses Union
- Newfoundland & Labrador Nurses Union
- Niagara Regional Labour Council
- Nova Scotia Nurses' Union
- Oakville/Mississauga KAIROS Group
- Occupy Hamilton
- Older Canadians Network
- Ontario Coalition Against Poverty

- Ontario Health Coalition
- Ontario Humanist Society
- Ontario Nurses' Association
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Ottawa Raging Grannies
- PEI Health Coalition
- Peterborough and District Labour Council
- Ploughshares Ottawa
- Positive Living BC
- Prince Edward Island Federation of Labour
- Prince Edward Island Nurses' Union
- Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation
- Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
- PSAC Local 610 (UWO Graduate Teaching Assistants Union)
- Public Health Social Justice Collective
- Public Service Alliance of Canada
- Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
- Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario
- Regroupement des Associations des Personnes Handicapées de la Gaspésie et des Îles inc.
- Regroupement des organismes communautaires
- Regroupement québécois des CALACS
- Retired Teachers of Ontario (District 3 Algoma)
- RightOnCanada.ca
- RNAO - Parish Nursing Interest Group
- Sarnia and District Labour Council
- Saskatchewan Health Coalition
- Saskatchewan Union of Nurses
- Service budgétaire de St-Félicien
- Service Employees International Union – SEIU-West
- Sierra Club Canada Canada
- Société des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick
- Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry Federal NDP association
- Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry Provincial NDP association
- Stratford and District Labour Council
- Students for Medicare
- Syndicat des infirmières, inhalothérapeutes et infirmières auxiliaires
- Table des regroupements provinciaux d'organismes communautaires et bénévoles
- Table régionale des centres de femmes de Montréal métropolitain-Laval
- The Council of Senior Citizens' Organization BC
- Timmins and District Labour Council
- Toronto and Area Council of Women
- Union des consommateurs
- United Church of Canada
- United Food and Commercial Workers Union
- United Nurses of Alberta
- United Steelworkers
- Wellness Training Services
- York University Graduate Students' Association