

# Standing Together for Medicare: ***A Call to Care***



This joint-statement came out of the Canadian Health Coalition - Canadian Labour Congress Conference on the Future of Health Care, Oct. 12, 2001

**For more information visit: [www.healthcoalition.ca/conference.html](http://www.healthcoalition.ca/conference.html)**

The peoples of Canada believe that health is a fundamental right of every human being without distinction of race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, economic or social condition. Organizations representing millions of Canadians will mobilize to defend this right and to ensure that the following principles shape the future direction of the health care system:

- 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 of health care as a public good in which the few must not profit at the expense of the many. 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.*
- 3. Opposition to any commercialization and privatization of health. Therefore the federal government must negotiate a general exclusion of health services and health insurance from all trade agreements.*
- 4. The need for the federal government to fully assume its responsibilities in respect to health, particularly by restoring and increasing federal transfers to levels sufficient to secure the integrity and enforcement of the Canada Health Act, 1984.*
- 5. 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 system of home and long-term care services and pharmacare.*
- 6. The need to move away from a fee-for-service model towards a community-based, multi-disciplinary approach to the management, organization and delivery of services and care. Levels of services must be sufficient so that the burden of care does not fall on families, mainly women.*
- 7. An accountable health care system through democratic participation and governance at all levels.*
- 8. The recognition that health care workers are critical to the effective operation of the health care system and that decent wages, working conditions and training opportunities are essential to high quality care and the retention of health care workers.*

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 social services and public health care. They are incompatible with the commercialization of all public services sought by the international trade agenda.

We believe these values must be adhered to by all governments in Canada, even though jurisdiction is largely a provincial or territorial matter. Therefore, the principles of the Canada Health Act should be enshrined in the laws of each province and territory.

We come together to commit to direct political action to ensure that governments throughout Canada protect and expand health care based on the foundation of the Canada Health Act, 1984. What stands between Medicare and its destruction are the peoples of Canada. Future generations are depending on our vigilance.

Alberta Friends of Medicare  
 Alberta Teachers Federation  
 ALERT PEI  
 Alliance of Seniors to Protect Canada's Social Programs  
 Alliance for Public Accountability  
 Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program for Children  
 Association des enseignant·es et des enseignant·es francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick  
 Association of Allied Health Professionals of Newfoundland  
 Association of Ontario Health Centres  
 Brewer, General and Professional Workers Union/NUPGE  
 British Columbia Coalition of People with Disabilities  
 British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union/NUPGE  
 British Columbia Health Coalition  
 British Columbia Nurses Union  
 British Columbia Persons with AIDS Society  
 Campaign 2000  
 Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs  
 Canadian Association of School Social Workers and Attendance Counsellors  
 Canadian Association of Social Workers  
 Canadian Association of University Teachers  
 Canadian Auto Workers  
 Canadian Breast Cancer Network  
 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
 Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work  
 Canadian Crossroads International (Ontario)  
 Canadian Environmental Law Association  
 Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions  
 Canadian Federation of Students  
 Canadian Health Coalition  
 Canadian Housing and Renewal Association  
 Canadian Labour Congress  
 Canadian Pensioners Concerned  
 Canadian Religious Conference  
 Canadian Teachers Federation  
 Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers/NUPGE  
 Canadian Union of Public Employees  
 Cape Breton Save our Health Care Committee  
 Carleton University Graduate Students' Association  
 Chatham-Kent District Labour Council  
 Childcare Resource and Resource Unit, University of Toronto  
 Communications, Energy & Paper Workers Union of Canada  
 Community Health Services Association (Saskatoon Community Clinic)  
 Council of Canadians  
 Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia  
 Council of South Asian Seniors  
 Congress of National Seniors Organizations  
 Congress of Union Retirees of Canada  
 Disabled Women's Network (DAWN Ontario)  
 Education Wife Assault  
 Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario  
 Faith and Justice Coalition (Kingston)  
 Faith Partners (Ottawa)  
 Family Service Canada  
 First Call: BC Child & Youth Advocacy Coalition  
 General Fools Improvisational Theatre Company  
 Green Campus Society (University of Regina)  
 Halton Social Planning Council (Ontario)  
 Health Sciences Association of British Columbia/NUPGE  
 HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario)  
 Hospital Employees Union  
 INFACT Canada  
 International Association of Fire Fighters  
 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
 Inter Pares  
 Jewish Women International of Canada  
 Lakehead Social Planning Council  
 Lantern Christian Life Centre  
 Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union/NUPGE  
 Manitoba Medicare Alert  
 Manitoba Nurses Union

Manitoba Teachers Society  
 Medical Reform Group  
 Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic  
 National Action Committee on the Status of Women  
 National Anti-Poverty Organization  
 National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation  
 National Union of Public and General Employees  
 National Council of Women of Canada  
 New Brunswick Nurses Union  
 New Brunswick Government Employees Union/NUPGE  
 New Brunswick Public Employees Association/NUPGE  
 Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees/NUPGE  
 Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses' Union  
 Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association  
 North Bay Network for Social Action  
 North End Community Health Centre (Halifax)  
 North Island AIDS Coalition Society  
 Northwest Women's Centre (Thunder Bay)  
 Nova Scotia Citizens Health Care Coalition  
 Nova Scotia Federation of Labour  
 Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union/NUPGE  
 Nova Scotia Nurses' Union  
 Ontario Association of Food Banks  
 Ontario Association of Social Workers (Eastern Branch)  
 Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations  
 Ontario Health Coalition  
 Ontario Liquor Board Employees' Union/NUPGE  
 Ontario Nurses' Association  
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union/NUPGE  
 Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation  
 Ottawa-Carleton Child Poverty Action Group  
 Ottawa Child Poverty Action Group  
 Ottawa Health Coalition  
 PEI Union of Public Sector Employees/NUPGE  
 Polaris Institute  
 Presentation Leadership Team (Nfld)  
 Prince Edward Island Health Coalition  
 Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation  
 Project Genesis  
 Public Service Alliance of Canada  
 Reach for Unbleached  
 Registered Nurses Association of Ontario  
 Rights and Democracy  
 Saskatchewan Federation of Teachers  
 Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union/NUPGE  
 Saskatchewan Health Coalition  
 Saskatchewan Union of Nurses  
 Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Social Affairs Office  
 Seniors' Action and Liaison Team (Edmonton)  
 Service Employees International Union  
 Social Planning Council of Winnipeg  
 Social Policy Research Unit, University of Regina  
 Somerset West Community Health Centre  
 South Asian Women's Centre  
 Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees  
 Toronto Health Coalition  
 Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape  
 Toronto Women's Health Network  
 United Church of Canada  
 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW Canada)  
 United Nurses of Alberta  
 United Steelworkers of America  
 Vancouver Women's Health Collective  
 Women's Health in Women's Hands  
 Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada  
 Working Group on Women and Health Protection

*\*\* If your organization would like to endorse this statement please let us know by email (info@healthcoalition.ca), telephone (613-521-3400 Ext. 311#) or fax (613-521-9638)*

“The public has an abiding sense of the values of fairness and equity and do not want to see a health system in which the rich are treated differently from the poor. The Forum supports this view and supports necessary changes to our system only if we preserve the essence of medicare - universal coverage based on need, without financial barrier, portable across the country, to a comprehensive array of publically administered health care services.”

*-- National Forum on Health, 1997*