



Canadian Health Coalition Coalition canadienne de la santé

2841 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8X7 CANADA

MEDIA RELEASE

February 22, 2005
For Immediate Release

Canada Health Act Annual Report: **Keeping Parliament and Canadians in the Dark**

OTTAWA – The Canadian Health Coalition today called on Health Minister Dosanjh to instruct his department to correct the serious deficiencies in the *Canada Health Act Annual Report* to Parliament for 2003-2004.

Health Canada has reporting obligations to Parliament and must monitor and enforce the five criteria and the two conditions of the CHA. These obligations are not being performed. Key information is missing. The Auditor General wrote in 2002, that Health Canada “is unable to tell Parliament the extent to which health care delivery in each province and territory complies with the criteria and conditions” of the *Canada Health Act*.

“If key information - like data on for-profit delivery - is ‘not available’ from provinces like Alberta and Québec (<http://www.healthcoalition.ca/example.pdf>), then federal health funding should become ‘not available’”, said Kathleen Connors, Chairperson of the Canadian Health Coalition. “Canadian taxpayers expect to know how and where their health care money is being spent, especially in light of increased federal health transfers,” added Ms. Connors.

Health Canada’s Annual Report on the CHA consistently fails to identify, let alone assess, significant privatization initiatives underway in some of the larger, wealthier provinces. Peer-reviewed evidence demonstrates that the proliferation of private investor-owned, for-profit clinics can threaten the integrity and viability of Medicare, thereby undermining the objectives of the CHA. In particular, two-tier access to medical services like MRI tests violate the CHA requirement that universal access to publicly funded services be provided on uniform terms and conditions.

The Canadian Health Coalition has also called on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health to conduct hearings on Health Canada’s lax approach to *Canada Health Act* reporting, monitoring, and enforcement (<http://www.healthcoalition.ca/finance2004.pdf>).

-30-

For more information contact:

Michael McBane, Canadian Health Coalition (613) 277-6295
Serge Lalonde, Coalition Solidarité Santé (514) 444-9681
Harvey Voogd, Alberta Friends of Medicare (780) 722-5065

www.medicare.ca

Registered Persons					
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 ¹
1. Number as of March 31st (#).	2,957,045	3,007,582	3,072,384	3,124,487	3,165,157

Insured Hospital Services Within Own Province or Territory					
Public Facilities	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 ¹
2. Number (#):					
a. acute care	102	102	103	100	102
b. chronic care (Aux. Hospital only)	104	105	106	110	107
c. rehabilitative care	1	1	1	1	1
d. other	3	3	3	3	3
e. total	210	211	213	214	213
3. Payments (\$):					
a. acute care	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
b. chronic care	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
c. rehabilitative care	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
d. other	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
e. total	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
Private For-Profit Facilities	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 ¹
4. Number (#):					
a. surgical facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
b. diagnostic imaging facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
c. total	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
5. Number of insured hospital services provided (#):					
a. surgical facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
b. diagnostic imaging facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
c. total	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
6. Payments (\$):					
a. surgical facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
b. diagnostic imaging facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
c. total	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available