

CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION



Report on Activities and Campaigns



2025-26

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear colleagues and friends –

2025 began with our coalition organizing to make health care a top issue in the April federal election. The year ended with Alberta passing a new health care law that threatens the very existence of Medicare as we know it. In a world of chaos, crises and uncertainties, we can rest assure we have a Canadian Health Coalition fighting to keep universal public health care.

Together, we are mounting an offensive against any incursion of U.S. style two-tier health care taking hold in Canada. We are pushing back to say everyone in Canada deserves Medicare and deserves better Medicare, a Medicare that is expansive and includes dental care and medicines.

Recent Canadian Health Coalition highlights include:

OUR BIGGEST LOBBY TO DATE

Two hundred health care workers and advocates from across Canada gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for our annual public health care lobby on February 9 to 11, 2026. Over three days, we met with Members of Parliament and Senators to defend public health care. We are happy to report a majority of MPs told us they support upholding the *Canada Health Act*.

MAKING CARNEY KEEP HIS PHARMACARE PROMISE

From premiers' meetings to Liberal Party conventions, we continue to do what we can to protect and expand pharmacare so that all people in Canada benefit from free diabetes medication and contraceptives. Working with Alberta's Friends of Medicare, we organized a contingent outside the meeting of the newly elected Liberal caucus in Edmonton in September. Liberal MPs could not ignore our billboards and signs that said, "Carney, keep your pharmacare promise." On the east coast, we supported the New Brunswick Health Coalition's provincial pharmacare lobby and are about to launch a similar lobby in Newfoundland and Labrador.

ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH

Our membership, representing Canada's health care worker unions and civil society groups, continue to offer steadfast support for our coalition's work to protect and expand public health care. We must grow to protect public health care and are working on adding new members to our coalition. In 2025, we welcomed the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE) as a

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new member. Representing office employees, technical and professional employees and sales representatives both in the private and public sectors, COPE members are the latest workforce to join our collective effort towards defending and expanding public health care in Canada.

Our coalition is also working on diversifying our funding base to be more effective. Individuals are giving more than ever before to the Canadian Health Coalition. Our coalition has seen a remarkable 134 per cent increase in total revenue from individual donors.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

On December 5, our member Inter Pares celebrated their 50th anniversary. The Canadian Health Coalition is honoured to collaborate with the brilliant Inter Pares staff on their global health equity and justice initiatives.

LOOKING AHEAD

Now that the Carney Liberals have a majority government, the Canadian Health Coalition will continue to draw upon the incredible strength within our movement to fulfill our mission. Together, we will realize our dream of better Medicare.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason MacLean

CHAIR
CANADIAN HEALTH COALITION

STOPPING TWO-TIER HEALTH CARE

The Canadian Health Coalition has joined forces with Friends of Medicare in Alberta and other provincial health coalitions across the country to oppose Alberta's two-tier health care law. Bill 11 allows physicians to decide patient-by-patient whether they charge patients or the public system for medically necessary care in the province, privileging health care access for those who can pay. We have rallied with health coalitions across the country in national days of action and outside Liberal Party Conventions. Our legal opinion gained much attention and response from Alberta Premier Danielle Smith. It shows Bill 11 violates the *Canada Health Act*. We will continue to call on the Carney government to enforce the *Canada Health Act* and stop the expansion of private, for-profit services that threaten universal health care access.



Left-to-right: Chris Gallaway, Friends of Medicare, and Jason MacLean, Canadian Health Coalition, addressing lobby participants on February 11, 2026.

Photo: John Major.

ENDING SYSTEMIC RACISM IN HEALTH CARE

A strategic priority of the Canadian Health Coalition is ending systemic racism in health care. On that front, the Coalition, along with Amnesty International and other public interest groups, are currently intervening as a 'friend of the court' in the lawsuit, *Toussaint v. Canada*. At issue in *Toussaint v. Canada*, that the Toussaint estate now continues following Nell Toussaint's death, is whether Canada violated Toussaint's Charter rights by refusing to provide her with public health care. If successful, the case will set a precedent for the enforceability of international legal decisions in Canadian courts and for access to health care regardless of immigration status.

The Canadian Health Coalition has established the annual Nell Toussaint Award for Universal Health Care to be awarded during Black History Month. The award recognizes the contributions of a Black individual or Black-led organization towards ending systemic racism in health care. This year's recipient was Alicia Carty, a strong advocate for injured migrant workers.

In January 2026, the Coalition published the report, *Free and Universal? Disparities in International Student Health Care in Canada*, authored by Tracy Glynn. The report notes that Manitoba, Ontario and the Yukon are particularly failing international students by shutting them out of Medicare during their studies and calls for all provincial/territorial governments to grant Medicare on arrival to international students.



Canadian Health Coalition Chair Jason MacLean presenting injured migrant worker advocate Alicia Carty with the 2026 Nell Toussaint Award for Universal Health Care on Feb. 9, 2026.

Photo: John Major.

A HISTORIC LOBBY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Our 2026 lobby participants met with almost 100 parliamentarians on February 10. Besides meeting with MPs and senators, lobby participants celebrated the advocacy of Alicia Carty with Justicia (Justice for Migrant Workers), rallied on Parliament Hill, networked, and had fun.



Some of the 200 participants gathered for the 2026 Canadian Health Coalition Lobby in Ottawa on Feb. 9, 2026.

Photo: John Major.



Steven Staples, National Director of Policy and Advocacy of the Canadian Health Coalition, training lobby participants on February 9, 2026.

Photo: John Major.



Michael Maclsaac, President of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC), (far right) at the lobby orientation for public health care on February 9, 2026.

Photo: John Major.



Left-to-right: Lobby participants Kathleen Brooks, Unifor, Debora De Angelis, UFCW, Candace Basara, Unifor, and Katelyn Page, OPSEU LOCAL 215, meeting with Juanita Nathan, MP for Pickering-Brooklin, on February 10, 2026.



Lobby participants Tristan Howell, Nunavut Employees Union (PSAC), Jena Merkosak, Public Service Alliance of Canada, and Gina Sanche, Health Sciences Association of British Columbia meeting with Lori Idlout, MP for Nunavut (second from right) on February 9, 2026.



Left-to-right: Jagsharan Singh Mahal, MP for Edmonton Southeast, Sarah Hedges-Chou, Inter Pares, and Daniel Sims, Unifor.

Our lobby participants continue to engage MPs in their ridings and senators in their regions on protecting and expanding universal public health care in Canada.



Linda Silas, President of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Union, speaking at the Rally for Public Health Care on Parliament Hill on February 10, 2026.



While all MPs were invited, Gord Johns, NDP Health Critic and MP for Courtenay-Alberni, was the only MP to confirm their attendance and speak at the Rally for Public Health Care on Parliament Hill on February 10, 2026.



Bert Blundon, president of National Union of General and Public Employees (NUPGE), speaking at the Rally for Public Health Care on Parliament Hill on February 10, 2026.



Hundreds rallied for public health care on Parliament Hill on February 10, 2026.



Lana Payne, President of Unifor, speaking at the Rally for Public Health Care on Parliament Hill on February 10, 2026.



Fae Johnstone, Society for Queer Momentum, speaking at the Rally for Public Health Care on Parliament Hill on February 10, 2026.

HANDS OFF OUR HEALTH CARE

Premiers hear they must stop privatization of health care

The Canadian Health Coalition with provincial health coalitions always make sure premiers make health care a top priority at their annual meetings, known as the Council of the Federation. On July 21, 2025, with the Ontario Health Coalition and Ontario Federation of Labour, we organized a rally and car cavalcade outside the Premiers' meeting in Huntsville, Ontario.

Canadian Health Coalition staff also participated in the Ontario Health Coalition's Code Red Shadow Summit. Anne Lagacé Dowson, Communications Director, shared the latest on health care in Québec where she resides. Steven Staples, National Director of Policy and Advocacy, spoke about pharmacare. Tracy Glynn, National Director of Projects and Operations, spoke on a panel about efforts to secure health care as a human right, including for people denied health care due to their immigration status.

The Canadian Health Coalition's Jason MacLean and Steven Staples also attended the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions' breakfast with the premiers as they gathered in Huntsville. Referring to pharmacare, Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew told Staples, "It is a good deal" for his province. Manitoba was the first to join pharmacare on February 27, 2025, with an agreement worth \$219 million over four years.



Left-to-right: Jason MacLean, Chair of the Canadian Health Coalition, and Ramon Kataquapit of Okiniwak, an Indigenous youth-led movement, opening the rally against health care privatization at the Council of the Federation Meeting in Huntsville on July 21, 2025.



Anne Lagacé Dowson, Communications Director of the Canadian Health Coalition, shared the latest on health care in Québec at the Code Red Shadow Summit on July 21, 2025.

Photo: Charlie Crabb/NUPGE.



Canadian Health Coalition Chairperson Jason MacLean (left) speaking to Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston (right) at the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions' breakfast with the premiers on July 21, 2025.

Photo: Charlie Crabb/NUPGE.



British Columbia Premier David Eby (left) speaking with Canadian Health Coalition Secretary Tristan Newby (right) at the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions' breakfast with the premiers on July 21, 2025.

Photo: Charlie Crabb/NUPGE.



Left-to-right: Dr. Nancy Olivieri, Nikolas Barry-Shaw, Trade and Privatization Campaigner of the Council of Canadians, and Steven Staples, National Director of Policy and Advocacy of the Canadian Health Coalition, speaking about pharmacare at the Code Red Shadow Summit on July 21, 2025.

Photo: Charlie Crabb/NUPGE.

PROBING CANADA'S PROFITIZATION OF CARE PROBLEM

With the University of Ottawa's Centre for Health Law, Ethics and Policy, the Canadian Health Coalition convened a research roundtable on the profitization of health care on October 23, 2025, at the University of Ottawa.

Profitization of care refers to the proliferation of for-profit delivery of care. As noted by Armine Yalnizyan and Canadian Health Coalition board member Pat Armstrong, keynote speakers at the roundtable, Canada's health care system is increasingly being infiltrated by venture capital, private equity and foreign direct investment. The roundtable discussed emerging profit-making trends in health care and the threats it poses to Medicare.



Vanessa Gruben, University of Ottawa and Jason MacLean, Chair of the Canadian Health Coalition, open the Profitization of Health Care Research Roundtable.



Armine Yalnizyan, a keynote speaker at the Canada's Profitization of Health Care Problem Research Roundtable.



Left-to-right: Janna Klostermann, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta and Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) researchers Morgan Carl and Garry Sran speaking on a panel about public health care solutions at Canada's Profitization of Health Care Problem Research Roundtable.



Our coalition supervised several students' research projects this past year. University of Ottawa law student Lisa Tran completed a Pro Bono Student Canada placement with us. Lutfunnessa Tania, a graduate student in Carleton University's Migration and Diaspora Studies, contributed research on migrant access to health care while Carleton University health sciences students Divine Bright and Samantha Ho (pictured here on the left) completed a joint placement with us and Citizens for Public Justice.

KEEPING PUBLIC HEALTH CARE A TOPIC OF PUBLIC CONVERSATION

Thanks to the work of our Communications Director Anne Lagacé Dowson, we continue to be sought out by journalists from every major news media outlet in the country, including CBC, Radio-Canada, CTV, Global, The Globe and Mail, The Hill Times, The Toronto Star, CPAC, Le Devoir and more.



Canadian Health Coalition Chair Jason MacLean speaking at a media conference on Parliament Hill on February 9, 2026. MacLean and allies Sébastien Pitre, Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS), Chris Gallaway, Friends of Medicare, Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition, and Pam Parks, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 6364 called on the federal government to protect public health care from cuts and privatization and to advance pharmacare.



Anne Lagacé Dowson holding up an advertisement targeting the Carney government to make progress on pharmacare negotiations with the provinces and territories at a news conference on Parliament Hill on September 22, 2025. Dowson was joined by our chair Jason MacLean, Siobhán Vipond, Canadian Labour Congress, Angela Preocanin, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, Frédérique Chabot, Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, Manuel Arango, Heart and Stroke Foundation, and Olivier Surprenant, Union des consommateurs.

Webinars

Anne Lagacé Dowson hosted several popular webinars on timely health care topics with Canada's foremost experts and strongest defenders of public health care. The webinars are available for viewing on the Canadian Health Coalition's Youtube channel and are a timely resource for advocates, researchers, and anyone wanting to learn more about public health care. Recent webinars focused on Alberta's two-tier health care law, the conditions of care work, international student health care access, the status of dental care and pharmacare, and health care in war zones.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Haylee Keyes joined us in early 2025 as our National Director of Development and Community Engagement. Here are some of the results of her work.

Digital Engagement Highlights

- » **15,000+ advocacy emails** were sent to elected officials and MPs through our digital advocacy campaigns.



- » Canadian Health Coalition posts on Facebook had a combined total of **1,716,269 views** and **111,630 engagements**.
- » Our most popular social media post was our "Who really drafted Bill 11" video with over **75,000 unique views**. This short video featured Canadian Health Coalition Chair Jason MacLean speaking at a news conference and exposing the role that insurance companies played in Alberta's two-tier health care law.
- » The Canadian Health Coalition email list doubled in contacts last year experiencing a **145 % growth rate**.
- » Approximately **156,000 people** visited the website and generated about **713,000 interactions**.
- » Our most popular blog post was our profile on Health Minister Marjorie Michel "Meet your new minister of health: Marjorie Michel" with **95,979 reads**.

Individual Giving Highlights

- » Our coalition had a **134 % increase** in total revenue from individual donors.
- » Our monthly giving revenue grew by **23 %**.
- » The number of our one-time donations increased by **799 %** over the previous year.
- » We have **nine times** as many donors contributing to campaigns this year than in the previous reporting period.
- » In September 2025, individual donors **fully funded** three high-traffic billboards in Edmonton in less than 24 hours.



One of six billboards, sponsored by the Canadian Health Coalition and Friends of Medicare, urging Prime Minister Mark Carney to continue negotiating bilateral agreements for pharmacare spotted in Edmonton in September during the Liberal Party Convention.

Board of Directors and Member Organizations of the Canadian Health Coalition 2025-2026

We comprise frontline health care workers' unions, community groups, and public health care experts.

Executive

Jason MacLean, Chair, (National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE))

Siobhán Vipond, Vice-Chair, (Canadian Labour Congress (CLC))

Ryan Campbell, Co-Treasurer, (Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC))

Rita Morbia, Co-Treasurer, (Inter Pares)

Tristan Newby, Secretary, (Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU))

Board members

Natalie Appleyard, Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ)

Pat Armstrong, PhD

Nikolas Barry-Shaw, Council of Canadians

Bonnie Bates, Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

Mary Boyd, PEI Health Coalition

Justine De Jaegher, Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

Chris Gallaway, Friends of Medicare

Vanessa Gruben

Kellee Janzen, Unifor

Dr. Joel Lexchin

Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition

Debora DeAngelis, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

Keith Newman, Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC)

Adrienne Silnicki, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

Pat Van Horne, United Steelworkers

Julie White, Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC)

Lisa Zunti, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Canada

Staff members

Tracy Glynn, PhD, National Director of Operations and Projects

Haylee Keyes, National Director of Development and Community Engagement

Anne Lagacé Dowson, Communications Director

Steven Staples, National Director of Policy and Advocacy

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