



Yes National Public Medicare



We need Medicare more than ever...

Canada has had one of the best health care systems in the world. We need to rebuild. To improve it and make it more efficient. And we need to keep it public. Private means profit - out of your pocket. It's been shown in the U.S. and England, and here in Ontario - private, for profit health care costs more.

Canadians still desperately want Medicare. In each of the four cities that have hosted the Romanow inquiry so far, the audiences applauded those who recommended expanding Medicare.

Thomas Walkom, Toronto Star, March 17, 2002

Let's keep Medicare working...

It does work. Medicare, Canada's public non-profit health insurance, delivers accessible quality care to millions of Canadians every year.

It's universal and accessible. All Canadians are covered by this health care insurance.

It's there when we need it most. Public funding means we control the system.

We can afford it. It's still the most cost-effective way to give all Canadians quality health care.

...and improve it!

Academic health experts such as the University of Manitoba's Noralou Roos said extra money can be found simply by reforming the system.

Thomas Walkom, Toronto Star

- **Restore funding.** Let's make governments use our money to modernize and improve our health care system, not give tax cuts to the wealthy.
- **Rebuild** our community hospitals.
- **Increase efficiency.** Put doctors on salary and use nurse practitioners to take on some of their work.
- **Add to it.** Our health insurance through public Medicare should also cover medical costs that can be financially crippling for a family: prescription medicines, dental care, and home care for chronically ill children, disabled people and seniors.



You can protect Medicare...

Speak out, join up. Give your views to the coming door-to-door canvass led by the Ontario Health Coalition. Or volunteer to help canvass in your area. Join the local group nearest you.

Sign the petition to send a message to Romanow that you want him to say yes to Medicare.

Call your Ottawa MP or Queen's Park MPP.

Spread the message. Put the poster on the flip side up in your window. Post a lawn sign. Tie on red caution tape that says Yes National Public Medicare.

Stand up. May 15 is National Medicare Day.

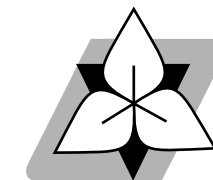
[www.ofl-fto.on.ca/SAVE Medicare](http://www.ofl-fto.on.ca/SAVE_Medicare)

www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca

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Ontario Federation of Labour
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YES NATIONAL PUBLIC MEDICARE YES NATIONAL PUBLIC MEDICARE YES NATIONAL PUBLIC MEDICARE YES NATIONAL PUBLIC MEDICARE

The average healthy American, not insured through work, must pay \$3,000 per year for private health insurance, plus a \$500 deductible and \$20 user fee per visit.

Georgetown University study



What's wrong with private health care?

It's okay if you're rich. But when those who can afford it can get private care, it means longer lines and delays within public Medicare. Why?

When for-profit hospitals and clinics open up, the wealthy go there and many doctors and the best diagnostic equipment follow. This means fewer doctors per patient in the public system, and even poorer service for public patients.

Can you afford to go private?

Imagine paying \$500 dollars a day for a hospital stay.

Being bankrupted by an illness.

Postponing vital surgery because you can't get money for an operation.

Not getting medical tests done because you can't afford them - and can't afford to find out you are sick.

Losing health coverage when you lose your job.

The number of Americans who have no health coverage is more than the population of Canada - 40 million.

Private doesn't work for most people in the U.S. - why would it work here?



In the U.S... private businesses... have greatly increased the total cost of health care. Health care is totally different from most goods and services. That is the reason we have medical insurance and why sick people need the professional and altruistic services of physicians and other providers.

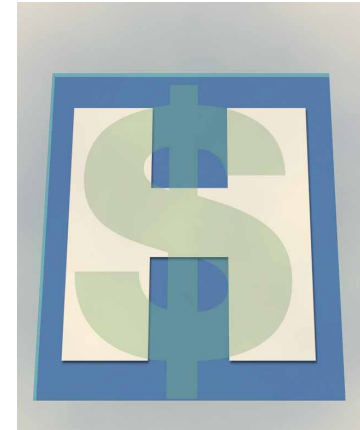
Dr. Arnold S. Relman, Professor Emeritus of Harvard Medical School

For profit hospitals cost more

Ontario is proposing to build the first two for-profit hospitals in the country in Ottawa and Brampton. Key support services and buildings will be turned over to private corporations.

In Prince Edward Island, the government pulled out of its for-profit hospital project after it discovered that it would cost more than if the project was kept public.

In Britain private hospitals have ended up with a 30% reduction in available beds, a 25% reduction in staff, and cost increases that threaten the future of public health care in Britain.



In Britain, between the first proposal for a private hospital... and the final deal with the private companies... the cost has risen by an average of 72%.

British Medical Association

Families who have chronically ill or disabled children, or elderly parents who need home care, find they are left to carry the burden of care themselves or face crippling bills.



Home care for profit isn't working either

Since it has been treated as a business and contracted out to the private sector, home care is being rationed and gives only a bare patchwork of services to those who need it - seniors, the sick, disabled people, and chronically ill children.

Since people are being discharged from hospitals quicker and sicker, the demand for home care has increased. Seniors and people with disabilities are not getting the housekeeping and personal support they need to live independently and with dignity.

Home care needs to be not for profit and covered by Medicare.

YES NATIONAL PUBLIC MEDICARE

PUBLIC MEDICARE

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