



HEALTH CARE AND TWO TIER SYSTEM

What kind of health care system does Canada have? Do Canadians understand the underlying principles of our health care system? Do the present practices reflect these underlying principles? What kind of health care system do Canadians really want?

Our elected officials, both at the federal and provincial levels, are constantly referring to the five principles of the Canada Health Act:

- comprehensiveness: all insured health in accordance with the law of the province;
- accessibility: provide for insured health services on uniform terms and conditions;
- universality: 100% of the insured persons are entitled to the insured health services provided by the provincial plan;
- public administration: administered and operated on a non-profit basis by a public authority appointed or designated by the government of the province;
- portability: provide for health services to insured persons temporarily absent from the province.

This survey is an invitation to reflect on our health care system. Please forward your reactions to: Fred Ripley (fjripley@islandtelecom.com) AND Pierre Drouin (drouinpj@hotmail.com)
Comments will be summarized and presented at the 2006 AGM for discussion.

Select the reply in each statement that best reflects your opinion and/or add additional comments.

A publicly administered health care system is one where:

- a) health services are available only through publicly funded institutions at no charge to the patient;
- b) health services are also available at private institutions but at no charge to the patient;
- c) health services are also available at private institutions, part of the cost being paid by the provincial health insurance plan, part by another insurance plan.

COMMENTS:

In a publicly administered health care system, there is:

- d) no room for the private sector;
- e) limited room for the private sector but under strict government guidelines;
- f) room for the private sector, for example in specialized fields.

COMMENTS:

In a publicly administered health care system,

- g) all health care practitioners (nurses, doctors, ...) are government employees;
- h) some health care practitioners are on the payroll of a private institution.

COMMENTS:

A two tier system is best defined as a system where:

- i) some health services are made available at no cost to some citizens and not to other citizens;
- j) some health services are made available to some citizens who have the means to pay for part of the cost of such services while other citizens cannot;
- k) it is possible for some citizens to access some health services faster than other citizens;
- l) a combination of a), b) and c) above

COMMENTS: you may want to give your definitions of a one tier AND two tier systems.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements:

m) Given the present division of powers between the different levels of government, there will always be major differences between the way the provinces administer their provincial health care system.

AGREE DISAGREE

n) Public funds should not be used to pay for services obtained in a private institution.

AGREE DISAGREE

o) Canadians who have access through their health insurance plans to health services not available to other Canadians are in fact on a two tier health care system.

AGREE DISAGREE

p) In a truly one tier health care system, the government would ban all health insurance plans which guarantee some Canadians coverage for health services not available to all Canadians.

AGREE DISAGREE

q) The collective agreements of most public employees allow for public funds to pay part of the premiums of health insurance plans. This is a form of a two tier health care system.

AGREE DISAGREE

r) Canadians should be allowed to pay for health services not covered by their provincial health plan.

AGREE DISAGREE

s) Canadians who cannot receive timely access to health services in Canada should be allowed to obtain these services outside Canada at government expense.

AGREE DISAGREE

t) The federal government should require the provinces and territories to agree on an uniform list of what constitutes necessary health services before transferring funds for health care.

AGREE DISAGREE

u) Canadians who engage in dangerous/extreme activities should be required to pay for any health expenses resulting from the practice of such activities.

AGREE DISAGREE

v) Canadians who travel outside Canada for long periods (more than three months) should be required to buy travel insurance to cover all health expenses incurred outside the country.

AGREE DISAGREE

w) Injuries resulting from accidents should be paid entirely by the person or persons if that person or those persons are found responsible for the accident.

AGREE DISAGREE

x) The final decision regarding the choice of health facilities and/or services belongs exclusively to the patient.

AGREE DISAGREE

y) A provincial government has the right to exclude from its provincial health plan certain health services, even if those are covered by another provincial health plan.

AGREE DISAGREE

COMMENTS: