

Save Public Health Care

We need a new Health Accord!

What is the Health Accord?

The Health Accord is an agreement between the provinces, territories and federal government. It provides the provinces with stable funding and sets national standards. The current Health Accord expires March 31st, 2014 and the federal government is refusing to renegotiate it. Expiration of the accord will result in a **\$36 billion** dollar cut to public health care, and an additional **\$16.5 billion** dollar cut to health care equalization payments.

Why do we need a new Health Accord?

A Health Accord is essential for meeting the health care needs of all Canadians and ensuring:

- *Sufficient federal funding to the provinces and territories*
- *An end to illegal fees and extra-billing*
- *Everyone has access to a primary health care practitioner and reasonable wait times for medical procedures*
- *Access to prescription drugs through a national Pharmacare program with cost controls on drug prices*
- *Adequate provision of long-term beds and care for seniors and those with mental illness*

Cuts to Canada Health Transfer over 10 years

British Columbia	\$ 5 billion
Alberta	\$ 4.1 billion
Saskatchewan	\$ 1.1 billion
Manitoba	\$ 1.3 billion
Ontario	\$ 14 billion
Quebec	\$ 8 billion
New Brunswick	\$ 715 million
Nova Scotia	\$ 902 million
Prince Edward Island	\$ 144 million
Newfoundland & Labrador	\$ 491 million
Yukon/NWT/Nunavut	\$ 115 million
CANADA TOTAL	\$ 36 billion

The federal role in health care

Federal leadership is essential to secure the future of public health care for all, from infants to seniors. The Harper government has abandoned the leadership role that is necessary for keeping our national system intact. Rather than build on the strengths of the 2004 Health Accord, the federal government has fought to undermine it:

- National Pharmaceutical Strategy – TERMINATED
- Seniors Health Care Plan – ABANDONED
- Aboriginal Health – NEGLECTED
- Wait Times Reduction Strategy – DITCHED
- Health Council of Canada – ABOLISHED
- Refugee Health Program – AXED
- Veterans' Health Services – DOWNSIZED

The Harper agenda for health care will lead to the fragmentation of services and the elimination of national standards by:

- Linking health transfers to economic growth – cuts of **\$36 billion** over 10 years
- Eliminating equalization and instead linking funding to population size rather than needs – cuts of **\$16.5 billion** to less wealthy provinces over 5 years
- Encouraging profiteering from sickness

The result will be the end of universal health care for all and the creation of one health system for the wealthy, and another broken system for the rest of us.

Canadians want the public health care system strengthened. They expect the federal government to negotiate a plan with the provinces to meet the health care needs of all Canadians.

For more information and to take action visit: www.healthcoalition.ca

