



Annual General Meeting
June 10, 2010

Resolution #1 (Health care composite)

Improving health care for British Columbians

Background:

- The availability of high quality health care for all who need it is an important measure of the quality of our society.
- More and more health care services are being compromised to benefit for-profit corporate entities whose priority is the bottom-line, not the quality of care:
 - Residential and long-term care for seniors, along with home support services, are being cut and contracted out to corporate providers.
 - The majority of outpatient rehabilitation services are now for-profit and increasingly provided by large corporations at great cost to patients.
 - While the government has failed to provide community health centres, the number of private for-profit clinics is growing significantly. The Seaton Commission said community health centres “have the potential to reduce hospitalization and increase the quality of care available at the community level” at lower cost than acute care facilities.
 - The Therapeutics Initiative, which provides independent advice on the benefits, harms and cost of prescription medicines, is under attack from a provincial task force with ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

Therefore be it resolved that the B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members:

- Oppose contracting out long-term care and home support to for-profit providers.
- Call on the B.C. government to initiate a public consultation with rehabilitation providers, the disability rights community, seniors’ and women’s health organizations and unions to develop a strategy to bring rehabilitation services back into the publicly-funded, non-profit sector.
- Call on the B.C. government to develop multi-disciplinary, non-profit and publicly-funded community health centres throughout the province.
- Urge the B.C. government to maintain the structure and funding levels of the Therapeutics Initiative to help ensure British Columbians receive the safest, most effective and affordable prescription medicines.
- Affirm that all health care and rehabilitation services, whether provided in the home, the community or the acute care sector should be universally available, and that all user fees and other financial barriers to care should be removed.