



Annual General Meeting
June 13, 2012

RESOLUTION #3: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS: The Canadian Health Coalition, a public advocacy organization comprised of national organizations representing nurses, health care workers, seniors, churches, anti-poverty, women, students and trade unions, has presented a brief to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology in 2011; and,

WHEREAS: This seventeen (17) page brief contained eighteen (18) key recommendations within seven (7) major aspects of Canadian health care which, if enacted, would significantly improve the quality, availability, and cost of health care in Canada; and,

WHEREAS: The Coalition brief included the following recommendations:

- The federal Minister of Health correct the deficiencies in the monitoring, reporting and enforcing of the Canada Health Act, particularly, the ban on queue jumping, user-fees and extra-billing by doctors.
- The Government of Canada invite representatives of Aboriginal people to be at the table of First Ministers when discussing solutions to urgent health problems.
- The Federal government begin work immediately to implement a National Pharmaceutical Strategy which would (amongst other things) pursue purchasing strategies to obtain best prices for Canadian for drugs and strengthen the evaluation of drugs for safety and effectiveness.
- The Federal Government establish a Pan-Canadian (Canadian Standard) health care system based on the principles of, (1) universal and equitable access to all, (2) improved safety and appropriate use, and, (3) cost controls to ensure value for money and sustainability.
- That a clear vision be developed of the significant resources required, and funding be put into place for Home and Continuing Care services.
- That primary Health Care Reform be sped up, with emphasis on establishing a holistic approach that can address the complex care needs of those with social barriers, e.g.- those with low-income or in poverty.
- And that the federal government take leadership in developing a Health Resource Strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BC FORUM work with BC Federation of Labour, its affiliates and the Canadian labour Congress to encourage the federal, provincial and territorial governments to implement all the recommendations presented by the Canadian Health Coalition to the Senate Standing Committee in 2011.