

# Medicare

## #2 PRIVATE DELIVERY: we can live without it

### Facts and Insights

Private delivery will weaken, then destroy the ability of our public, not-for-profit system to deliver first class service because: (1) private care drains away the “best” workers and patients from the public system; (2) private care drains away resources by promising quick care for easy, routine, and “profitable” treatments. This leaves the public system to carry the weight of providing the most complicated and costly care. The public system is called on to do more with less.

Private businesses can't be trusted to deliver short lines for medical care, any more than they do in banks, airports, grocery stores or at the movies. For example, the Calgary Health Authority has contracted out all of its cataract operations to private companies. Calgary patients now wait 13 months or more for their surgery. Meanwhile, in Lethbridge, Alberta, the wait is just four months. That's because all cataract surgeries in Lethbridge are done within the public health care system.

Private medical corporations have only one motive: make the maximum amount of profits possible. Sometimes this includes keeping you healthy. Sometimes not.

### Obvious Conclusions

Governments must not allow health care to be delivered for profit. They must protect and build our public health care system.

*Our Medicare celebrates  
the triumph of solid values  
AND sensible economics!*

### TAKE Action

**Speak** out for the good of your health. No one can do everything—but every single one of us can do something.

**URGE** the federal government to implement the Romanow Report: Pierre Pettigrew  
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**READ** the National Union brief to the Romanow Commission and other health care information: [www.nupge.ca](http://www.nupge.ca)  
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**CONNECT** with your neighbours and get involved in a local Medicare campaign; get fresh information; get email addresses for your MP and your MLA; link up with a trade union:  
[www.savemedicare.com](http://www.savemedicare.com)  
[www.healthcoalition.ca](http://www.healthcoalition.ca)  
[www.clc-ctc.ca](http://www.clc-ctc.ca)

**ENCOURAGE** your friends and co-workers to find out more.

**NUPGE** [www.nupge.ca](http://www.nupge.ca)

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\*Also available in French

