

BC Health Coalition Mission and Values:

Mission: To be the voice of public health care in BC and champion the protection and expansion of a quality public health care system.

Values: The BC Health Coalition is a democratic, inclusive and consensus-based network of organizations and individuals across British Columbia. We believe:

1. Health Care is a human right;
2. Access to health care must be equitable to everyone in BC (regardless of an individual's income, level of ability, age, cultural heritage, sex, sexual orientation or geographic location);
3. The health care system must cover comprehensive care for all patient needs at all stages of life: including the prevention and early detection of medical conditions, home and community based care, rehabilitation programs, appropriate affordable medications and treatment in hospitals when needed;
4. The best health care system is one that is publicly funded, accountable, controlled and delivered not for profit;
5. Issues that are basic to good health must be addressed (food, education, income, housing, social support and personal safety determine an individual's ability to achieve and maintain good health).

Canadian Health Coalition Call to Care:

Health care in Canada is a fundamental right without distinction of race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, political belief, immigration status, and economic or social condition. Organizations representing millions of Canadians will mobilize to defend this right and to ensure that the following principles shape the direction of the Health Accord renewal:

1. The recognition of the highest attainment of health as a fundamental right throughout life and the necessity of preserving public health through active measures of promotion, prevention, and protection including such determinants as housing, food safety, income, education, environment, employment and peace.
2. The recognition that many Aboriginal people have a poor health status and a high burden of disease. The current system is failing and requires a transformation of the relationship between Canada and its Aboriginal people to find solutions together. The Aboriginal people must be at the First Ministers discussions on the Health Accord as these solutions involve all levels of government.
3. The recognition of health care as a public good for which no financial barriers must be erected. We affirm the need for a system of public health care which is organized on the basis of public administration, public insurance and the delivery of services on a public, not-for-profit basis.
4. Opposition to any commercialization and privatization of health care. Therefore the federal government must negotiate a general exclusion of health services and health insurance from all trade agreements.
5. The need for the federal government to fully assume its responsibilities in respect to health, particularly by securing the adequate and predictable federal health transfers and enforcement of the Canada Health Act.
6. The reaffirmation of the original vision of a truly comprehensive public health care system for Canadians providing a continuum of services. The next steps are the expansion of the public system to include a universal Pharmacare plan, a system of home and community care, long-term care, and a strategy for mental health.
7. The need to move towards a community-based, multi-disciplinary team approach to the management, organization and delivery of services, especially in primary care. Levels of services must be sufficient so that the burden of care does not fall on families, mainly women.
8. An accountable health care system through democratic participation and transparent governance at all levels.
9. The recognition that health care workers are critical to the effective operation of the health care system and that decent wages and working conditions are essential to high quality care.