

What we need the Federal government to do!

LISTEN

The Federal government must listen to what Canadians want. They must consult with Canadians and the provinces about what services are needed and make our demand for a national public home care system a priority.

ACT

⇒ **INTRODUCE** legislation that would guarantee home care services are available to all Canadians, regardless of where they live, and are based on the five principles of the *Canada Health Act*:

- publicly administered
- comprehensive
- universal
- portable
- accessible

⇒ **EXPAND** the CHT to include funding to create a national public home care system.

⇒ **SET** national standards and guidelines and hold the provinces accountable to meet them!

What we need to do!

We need to remind the Federal government that they must play a progressive role in Canada's Medicare system. They have to do more than help pay the bills. They must also lead from the front to create the kind of Medicare we need and want.

Together we can make them do the right thing.



national
union

NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

- B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
- New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees

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The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of the Public Services International.

MEICARE 2.0
EXPAND. IMPROVE.

So good
to be home

Why don't
we have a
national
home care
program
yet?



We do a whole lot better when we can stay at home

ONE OF THE missing pieces from Canada's Medicare system is a national public home care system. It is time for Canadians to demand that this piece of the Medicare puzzle be added.

We don't have a national public home care system. When the *Canada Health Act* was drafted home care, among other possible programs and services, was not included. The provinces were left with the task of responding to their citizens' needs.

What developed is an uneven patchwork of programs and services that vary from province to province. What programs and services are available to you depends on where you live!

That shouldn't be how it is! Advances in medicine have made a broad range of health care services available in the home.

Research shows us that home care results in better health outcomes. It is also highly cost-effective. Home care can also dramatically reduce the demand for beds in hospitals and long-term care facilities.

And Canadians want it! When given the choice between treatment in a facility or at home, the overwhelming majority of people would prefer to receive their care in their own home.

So, why don't we have a national home care program?

GOOD QUESTION! Quite simply because the Federal government has not wanted to make it a priority.

Previously, the Federal government would use its ability to raise taxes and transfer funds to the provinces as a way to create, or expand upon, national programs. The money from the Federal government, usually matched by the provinces, would be targeted for specific programs. Provinces would deliver the services, but with standards and a mandate set by the Federal government.

This worked well. The current health care system that Canadians so value was created this way.

Unfortunately, for the past two decades the Federal government has tried to back away from the role it has historically played. Cuts to transfer payments, and a "hands-off" approach to dealing with the provinces, have left the system without Federal leadership.

The Harper government has taken this trend to a new level. They dictated how much money they will transfer under the Canada Health Transfer (CHT), yet with almost no direction on how it will be spent.

Priorities for the Harper government have been spending billions of dollars on new fighter jets and federal mega-prisons, while introducing more corporate tax cuts. But home care, and other services that Canadians hold as priorities, were not on the government's list.



It's not the lack of money

RESEARCH PROVES IT: our health care spending is not out of control or a problem. What we really have is a revenue problem.

Since the mid-90s, governments have cut taxes so drastically that they've reduced their revenue by at least \$90 billion every year.

That's more than enough money to create a national public home care system—and MORE!

It's all about priorities and choices. There's more than enough money to protect, strengthen and expand our Medicare—the Federal government just has to make it a priority.

