

## RECOMMENDATIONS: T FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

1. That the federal government reaffirm its commitment to a comprehensive national health care program jointly financed by the provinces and territories and the federal government, by restoring the funds it has cut from the Established Programs Financing.
2. That the federal government reaffirm its commitment to the guarantees in the *Canada Health Act* to Canadians for a health care system that is universal, accessible, comprehensive, portable and delivered by public, non-profit means and free of user fees or extra billing by defining these guarantees in regulations that cannot be undermined or ignored by federal, provincial or territorial governments. In addition, that a social charter including health care be made part of the Constitution as the ultimate guarantee to all Canadians.

II. The other major weakness of the Report is that it does not put enough emphasis on the responsibility of the federal government for health promotion, protection, disease prevention and medical research, both basic and applied. The federal government is better able to provide leadership and to avoid duplication and inefficiencies than are the provinces and territories.

Historically, the federal government has been the major player in these areas and funded most of the activities. The federal roles and responsibilities have been set out in both the Lalonde and Epp Reports. The Majority Report does not adequately document the cuts in federal funding in these areas in recent years. Federal government funding and leadership must be restored and strengthened in health promotion, protection and research if the broader problems now facing our health care system as outlined in the Majority Report are to be solved.

### RECOMMENDATION:

3. That the federal government reaffirm its major responsibility for health protection and promotion, disease prevention and medical research, by not only restoring budget cuts but significantly increasing program expenditures in these areas.

Jim Karpoff,  
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