

Dr. Jane Fulton similarly told the Committee:

In my view we do not need to spend any more money on health care. We need to spend money on housing, on transportation and on the environment. Here are areas in which I think you (the federal government) have some policy power under the Constitution, . . . ³¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2. That the federal government develop policies to make the nation healthy in those areas where it has jurisdiction under the Constitution, including the environment and areas that affect quality of life such as housing, income, employment and post-secondary education.**
- 3. That the federal government emphasize illness prevention and health promotion and devote greater resources to education and information for consumers with the objective of making them full partners and knowledgeable decision-makers in their own health care.**
- 4. That a Canada Health Council, representing health care providers, consumers, researchers and others, be established and financed to advise the federal government on matters related to national health care.**

B. THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

Canada provides universal health insurance coverage for its population through health insurance programs jointly financed by federal, provincial and territorial authorities. Provincial and territorial authorities design their own health insurance programs following national standards codified in the *Canada Health Act*. Provincial plans must meet those standards in order to qualify for full federal cash contributions to their programs.

Provincial and territorial health insurance plans must cover medically necessary hospital services, physicians' services and certain surgical dental procedures. Provinces are not required to insure residents for the costs of eyeglasses, outpatient prescriptive drugs, general dental care and semi-private or private hospital accommodation. However, most provinces include an outpatient prescription drug benefit for the elderly and individuals who qualify for social assistance.

The *Canada Health Act* does not specify what benefits are required in a "comprehensive" program and provinces and territories can and do include additional benefits that are not required under the national standards.

³¹ *Ibid.*, Issue No. 15, p. 6.