

2017-01 (Oct 19, 2017)

RECLAIMING WORLDCLASS HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS the majority of Senior Liberals surveyed identified an urgent need for federal leadership in healthcare reform; specifically:

- i) better access to family doctors and healthcare services
- ii) reduced wait times for specialists and medical procedures
- iii) innovation to reduce costs and achieve more efficient delivery of services

WHEREAS its system is one of the most expensive, Canada ranks ahead only of the USA in healthcare delivery quality as recorded by the 2016 International Commonwealth Fund reporting on 11 high-income countries.

WHEREAS decades of taxpayer-funded Healthcare Commissions and reports - including the 2015 \$700,000 Naylor report – urge change; but few recommendations have been enacted.

WHEREAS primary care is fundamental, yet in 2014, 4.5 million Canadians lacked a family doctor and 2016 wait lists for specialists and investigative procedures were longest ever – with extreme geographic disparities.

WHEREAS a hospital/acute care model is not well-suited to prevention, or to chronic care of an aging population, as evidenced by up to 20% hospital beds occupied by patients awaiting alternative placement.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada assumes LEADERSHIP in healthcare reform as recommended in the numerous taxpayer funded reports and commissions, giving urgent consideration to the growing demand for chronic care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada, in cooperation with provinces and territories:

- i) guarantees access to family physician-led primary care
- ii) leads implementation of solutions to eliminate unreasonable wait times
- iii) franchises efficiency and innovation throughout Canada

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada commits to improve Canada's ICF ranking from 9th into the top 3; and to communicate publicly on progress to meet this goal.
(274 words)

SLC National Policy Working Group for Healthcare

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Endorsed by Pontiac FLA

Reference: [SLC Policy Paper “Reclaiming World Class Health Care”](#) Oct 2017