

# Health Accord 2014

Did you know that the current agreement between the federal and provincial governments regarding healthcare is due to expire in 2 years. Government consultation forums are being set up all over the country to determine what Canadians want included in their health care system in the decade to come and how to pay for it.

Over the next several months our monthly news letter will include stats on the Canadian health care system and those of other countries. Here are my first stats. In 2008 Canada spent \$4079 per capita on health care. In 2000, Canada's health care system was ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in the world, while France's was ranked first (I don't have any more recent rankings than 2000). In 2008 France spent \$3677 per capita on health care. In France there is public and private health care and more health care professions are funded, (not just medicine).

Stat number 2: 1/3 of all Canadian visits to medical offices are for spine and spine related conditions. Several studies confirm that chiropractic care is much more effective and cost effective than medicine. The financial benefit of using chiropractors in a fully government funded health care system is a savings of \$4 billion annually across Canada.

Some of you may ask if the numbers are so compelling, why haven't the necessary changes to health care already taken place? The answer is each profession that is paid under the public system is always lobbying for a bigger piece of the public health care. Medical physicians and nurses continue to push for bigger wages and benefits and the other health care professions are left with little or nothing.

Chiropractors would like to see publically funded wages based on a profession's level of public satisfaction. As a profession we have always ranked high in public satisfaction.

It may be out of your comfort zone, but contacting your local MLA and MP is the only way to bring about the changes to our health care system that will allow it to exist without breaking the bank. I for one look forward to the time when all Canadians can go to a chiropractor's office, (or a naturopaths or a registered massage therapist's) without financial constraints. Being able to treat a back or neck problem before it reduces the activity level of someone, (which in turn leads to other conditions like weight gain and/ or elevated blood pressure), will be very rewarding to me. It will be truly preventative health care as it should be.

Please contact your local government officials to express your concerns and get involved with the decision making process.

FIND YOUR MLA:

<http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>

FIND YOUR MP:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseofCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?M>