



Canadian Health Coalition
Coalition canadienne de la santé

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MEDIA RELEASE

March 25, 2010

***Canada Health Act Annual Report: Parliament kept in the dark.
No accountability or transparency on health funding.***

OTTAWA – The Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) reacted today to the tabling of the Annual Report on the *Canada Health Act* 2008-2009 last Friday afternoon.

“Millions of dollars are being siphoned-off into private for-profit facilities and yet Parliament is kept in the dark and told the amounts are “not available”. Why is the Harper government encouraging more expensive and less accountable health care?” asked Kathleen Connors, Chairperson of the CHC.

Private For-Profit Facilities (B.C.)					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
4. Number of private for-profit facilities providing insured health services (#):					
a. surgical facilities	17	18	22	18	14
b. diagnostic imaging facilities	1	1	0	not available	not available
c. total	18	19	22	not available	not available
5. Payments to private for-profit facilities for insured health services (\$):					
a. surgical facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
b. diagnostic imaging facilities	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
c. total	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available

The report acknowledged some provinces are violating the *Canada Health Act* by allowing illegal extra-billing and queue-jumping for insured services:

“There are concerns about queue jumping and charges to insured persons at private surgical clinics in British Columbia, for services that are covered under its provincial health insurance plan. Patient charges and queue jumping at private diagnostic clinics also remains an issue in some provinces where private clinics are charging patients for medically necessary services and allowing them to jump the queue for insured health services.” (Page 10)

Has the Prime Minister instructed Minister Aglukkaq to look the other way as Canadians are charged illegal user-fees? It's time the federal government performed its statutory duty and enforced the *Canada Health Act*", said Connors.

Download the 2008-2009 Canada Health Act Annual Report at:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/pubs/cha-lcs/2009-cha-lcs-ar-ra/index-eng.php>

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