

BCHC sounds alarm on questionable health authority appointment

The BC Health Coalition is questioning the provincial government's commitment to defend public health care in the courts after its recent appointment of Kip Woodward as chair of Vancouver Coastal Health—the province's second largest health authority.

Mr. Woodward is a former Board member of the for-profit Cambie Surgery Centre and his family investment firm, Woodcorp Investments Ltd., is an investor in the controversial private clinic run by Dr. Brian Day.

Cambie Surgery is at the centre of the pivotal BC Supreme Court case launched by Day and a consortium of private for-profit clinics against the BC Medical Services Commission and the provincial government. The clinics aim to have key provisions of provincial health legislation declared unconstitutional so that they can open up BC to US-style health insurance and sell necessary health services to patients who can afford to pay a premium to jump the queue.

Mr. Woodward is a known advocate of privatized, for-profit health care. Last fall he wrote letters to Health Minister Kevin Falcon on Woodcorp letterhead, but in the capacity of Chair of Providence Health Care, expressing his desire for "new funding models" and "delivery processes" while outlining numerous "revenue generating" and "cost recovery" schemes that could not possibly avoid violating Medicare's principles of accessibility

and universality and that would further advance the interests of for-profit health care investors.

In April the Health Coalition ran an ad exposing the appointment in major papers across BC. We are calling on all British Columbians to demand that Minister Falcon take a strong stand in defending provincial health legislation from this legal challenge to ensure that we have a health care system that works for everyone. ✚



Who's defending your Medicare?

Health Minister Falcon has a responsibility to protect patients from pushers of privatized, for-profit health care and their legal attack on Medicare. Now, he has appointed some of the same players who stand to benefit from this attack to key positions in our public health care system.

Take action today and demand that the fox not be entrusted to guard the hen house: Tell the provincial government to take a strong stand in defending Medicare in the courts!

www.bchealthcoalition.ca

BC Health Coalition
Medicare: it's got us covered.

Youth Engagement Strategy reaches out across BC, raises awareness of health care issues

The BC Health Coalition's Youth Engagement Strategy, in partnership with the youth organization, Check Your Head, reaches thousands of young people through interactive workshops in high schools and youth centres across BC.

There are many questions about what's best for Canada's health care system, yet there is little youth-accessible information and few opportunities for youth-based dialogue on this issue. The Youth Engagement Strategy provides a space for much-needed youth-to-youth education on

systems of health care.

"Young people recognize the work our previous generations did to make the health care system we have now a reality. We appreciate this opportunity to create an even stronger and more caring system," says Anna Hilliar of Check Your Head. "Of all of the issues that Check Your Head talks about, public health care is the one issue that youth take pride in immediately."

To request a Youth Engagement Strategy workshop in your community, contact Anna at: 604-685-6631. ✚



Some of the great folks at YouthCO AIDS Society who can't contain their pride in our health care system!