

Catholic Health Alliance of Canada Advocacy Update



June 2012

Refugees face drastic cuts to their health insurance

Effective June 30, 2012, under Bill C-31, the federal Government will drastically reduce health coverage for all classes of refugees. Some will be denied coverage entirely; most will receive coverage limited to those of "an urgent or essential nature" and "Medications and vaccines only if needed to prevent or treat a disease that is a risk to public health or a condition of safety concern." Refugee children will be ineligible for vaccines; pregnant refugees will be ineligible for routine antenatal care.

Numerous organization have warned this will have devastating consequences for the health and well-being of refugee claimants who come to Canada to seek safety from violence and persecution in their country of origin.

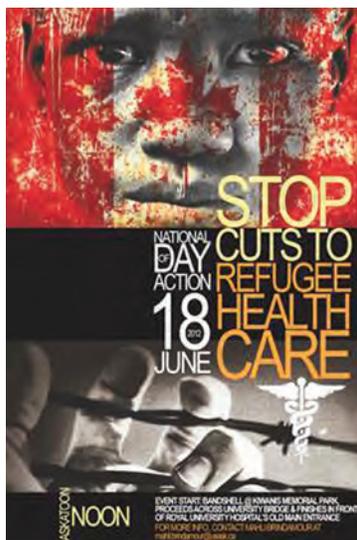
This move by the government of Canada to put the health of those who are most vulnerable at risk in this manner represents a radical departure from the principles of Medicare that have shaped our health care system for decades.

National Day of Action

June 18 has been designated a National Day of Action to oppose these cuts. Rallies will take place in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa, and other cities. These gatherings are part of a larger campaign to challenge the proposed changes.

The following are some of the organizations that have spoken out in opposition to the cuts:

- Canadian Medical Association,
- Doctors for Medicare,
- College of Family Physicians of Canada,
- Canadian Nurses Association,
- Canadian Dental Association.



For information on how to take part visit the website of [Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care](#).

Motion-312

Motion-312 is a private member's motion that has been put forward by Conservative MP Stephen Woodworth. It calls for the creation of a Parliamentary committee to examine the Criminal Code's definition of a human being in light of the latest science and medical evidence. The Code states that a child becomes a human being only at the moment of complete birth.

In early June the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada wrote to Mr. Woodworth expressing support for this motion. The letter states "In light of the enormous advances in fetal and developmental medicine, including situations where the fetus becomes a patient and undergoes medical and surgical interventions, it is crucial to re-address this declaration."

The Alliance expresses concern over Bill 6 - Manitoba

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada has written to the Minister of Health of the province of Manitoba to express support for the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba (CHCM) and its efforts to have elements of Bill 6 - *The Regional Health Authorities Amendment Act* – revised.

CHCM has expressed grave concerns about the fact the bill is contrary to the faith-based agreement that is in place in the province, which recognizes and protects essential aspects of the rights of faith-based organizations to control their own property, to govern themselves, to select and compensate their leaders, and to carry out their faith-based missions.

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