



Catholic
Health
Association
of Canada

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Health Council can assure greater accountability in the health care system, says CHAC

(Ottawa) – On December 9 the Federal Minister of Health announced the creation of the Health Council. The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) welcomes the establishment of a Health Council and hopes it's work will help to achieve the broader public accountability that is essential for strengthening and enhancing Canada's public health care system.

"Clearly, Canadians are looking for more accountability and transparency from those guiding health care services," said Mrs. Janet Brown, CHAC Board Chair. "We trust that the Health Council will be empowered to measure and report on the performance of the health care system, and not simply the implementation of the 2003 Health Accord."

The Health Council can also play an important role in ensuring that health care reform is guided by Canadian values and the national standards reflected in the *Canada Health Act*. "As such, the Council's first order of business should be to establish a statement that identifies the values by which the health care system will be assessed. Such a statement could also identify goals for the health care system, and clearly outline the responsibilities of governments in regard to the system," said Mrs. Brown.

In his report to government (November 2002), Roy Romanow referred to such a statement as a Canadian Health Covenant. It is the hope of the CHAC that this recommendation to establish such a covenant not be lost.

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The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) is a national Christian association supportive of health care in the tradition of the Catholic Church. As the national voice for Catholic health care, the CHAC acts to promote health in all its aspects: physical, emotional, spiritual and social. Its membership includes seven provincial associations; 34 sponsors/owners of health care organizations; 127 hospitals and homes; health care professionals; and affiliate organizations and individuals.