



ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUES
CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ

CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NEWS RELEASE

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CHAC Responds to Vital Health Issues

Ottawa - At the 2001 Convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC), held in St. John's, Nfld., April 28-30, participants of the Annual Assembly approved several resolutions calling on the federal government to act on a number of key health issues - reducing poverty and its negative effects on health; the impact of trade agreements on the health care system; human stem cell research; and the renewal of primary care.

"These resolutions reflect a commitment to promote and protect human dignity and the common good," said Sister Annette Noël, SP, CHAC chairperson.

Resolution 1 - Reducing Poverty and its Negative Effects on Health Resolved that the CHAC:

- reconfirm its commitment to the reduction of social and economic inequalities;
- work in partnership with health, social and anti-poverty organizations to influence the federal government to develop a comprehensive network of policies/programs that aim to eliminate poverty and the barriers to health experienced by people in poverty;
- call its members to urge provincial and municipal governments to give greater priority to reducing the negative health impacts of poverty.

Resolution 2 - Impact of Trade Agreements on Health Care Resolved that the CHAC:

- emphasizing that health care is not a commodity, call on the federal government to clarify the conflicting information that exists concerning its ability and commitment to protect Canada's publicly funded health care system from trade and foreign investment;
- call on the federal government to have its trade negotiators build into the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) stronger safeguards for Canada's publicly funded health care system.

Resolution 3 - Human Stem Cell Research Resolved that the CHAC:

- urge the federal government to establish a total prohibition of all cloning involving human cells and resulting in a human embryo, whatever the resulting objective of the procedure may be;
- encourage the use of adult stem cells in stem cell research;

- prepare a response to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Discussion Paper on human stem cell research.

**Resolution 4 - Renewal of Primary Care
Resolved that the CHAC:**

- support the goals and direction of primary care reform. Those goals being:
 - to improve access through the creation of multi-disciplinary practices;
 - to incorporate health promotion and disease prevention in primary care;
 - the realignment of funding to patients, not services;
 - the establishment of a remuneration method that recognizes curative services and promotes a continuum of preventative and treatment services.

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