



ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUES  
CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ

CATHOLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **CHAC Launches Election Action**

Ottawa - The Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) urges its members to become actively involved in the federal election campaign. The Association has released an Election Kit that presents a summary of key health issues and provides suggestions on how members can participate in the electoral process.

In the kit, the effort of several provinces to downplay any federal role in the development of an action plan for health care reform is identified as a threat to Ottawa's ability to maintain national standards in health care. Also included are questions concerning the impact of establishing for-profit hospitals and of increasing the role of the for-profit sector in the delivery of publicly funded health care services.

The problems of poverty, homelessness and unemployment are also addressed. Poor Canadians, especially Aboriginal people, experience overall higher rates of illness and premature death than those who are wealthy. Canada is the only G-8 country without a comprehensive housing program for the poor.

The CHAC bases its positions on two fundamental values. First, that human life deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and is worthy of protection at all its stages, especially when vulnerable. And second, that persons are social beings and cannot achieve their potential without cooperating with each other in the pursuit of the common good - the building of a just and compassionate social order in which true human growth for all persons is encouraged.

The Election Kit contains seven fact sheets that outline CHAC's position on a wide range of issues - the role of the federal government in health care; the threat posed by for-profit hospitals; the need for national programs for home care and for medically necessary drugs; poverty and homelessness; palliative care; promotion of a consistent ethic of life; and reproductive and genetic research.

The kit also includes a variety of political action tools to assist members in contributing to a process of change that will lead to the creation of a healthier society.

"This election campaign offers all Canadians an opportunity to ask candidates tough questions about some of the most fundamental issues facing our society," said Sister Annette Noël, SP, CHAC Chairperson.

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