

MEDIA RELEASE

Yellowknife—April 9, 2014

Danger to Health Care Presented at Alternatives North—Canadian Health Coalition Event

Northerners will hear how to fight the threats to universal health care at a public presentation Wednesday April 16 at 7 PM in the Northern United Place Auditorium.

The event is part of the national campaign to strengthen and reform Medicare following the federal government's failure to renew the Canada Health Accord. Alternatives North and the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) are the co-sponsors.

The federal-provincial-territorial Health Accord provided stable federal funding, and set national standards, and established goals for improving the system. The accord expired March 31, 2014, resulting in a \$36 billion dollars cut to cut in federal health transfers, and a \$16.5 billion cut in cut to health care equalization payments.

Guest speakers Michael McBane and Wendell Potter will outline how withdrawal of federal funding cripples the federal ability to set and enforce national standards, and lays the way for expansion of higher cost, for-profit health care.

Canada's "medicare watchdog", the CHC campaigns for public health care preservation and improvement. Mr. McBane is the CHC Executive Director. Mr. Potter is an outspoken critic of the corporate drive to undermine public health care services.

"The central federal role in health care is to ensure universal access to quality health services for all Canadians, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay. Without it, we risk the collapse of our health care system," says Mr. McBane.

"If Canadians fall for deceptive public relations efforts designed to undermine Canada's health care system, Canada will be on the way to American-style health care that puts profits before patients," says Mr. Potter.

"While Canadians overwhelmingly support public, universal health care, the federal government is not supporting or defending this system," says Alternatives North's Ben McDonald. "Northerners fought hard to prevent cuts to territorial health care. We need to fight just as hard for national universality."

While in Yellowknife, the speakers are giving a workshop to inspire and equip NWT health care advocates in the fight to preserve public health care for all Canadians.

See Canada Health Accord information on the [CHC website](#). Attached is an event poster providing biographies Michael McBane and Wendell Potter.

Contact:

Ben McDonald
Alternatives North
867 873 8123 benmcdonald@mac.com