

THE VANCOUVER SUN

Shirley Douglas owes doctor an apology

Vancouver Sun

Friday, January 13, 2006

Page: A13

Section: Editorial

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Source: Special to the Sun

How disappointed I was in Shirley Douglas's Jan. 10 article, Motive for private health care is profit.

In her essay, she attacks **Dr. Brian Day** and suggests that his entire motivation for creating a parallel private health care system in Canada is "profit."

She throws the word "profit" around as though we should take some evil connotation from it. Does she think that health care providers should work for a "loss"? The fact is that she has treated Day very unkindly. I happen to know that he is one of the most generous and gifted surgeons in British Columbia and his motivation is to remedy a broken medical system in this country.

Douglas takes great pride in the fact that her father was the founder of medicare. As well-intentioned as Tommy Douglas was when he founded medicare, unfortunately he founded a system that is now beyond repair in this country unless some drastic changes take place.

Canada is a member of the OECD and Canada is the only member country in the OECD with a one-payer system. Waiting lists, for example, in countries such as Sweden, France and Norway, are almost unheard of, whereas in Canada they are now part of our medicare culture.

Another country with Canada's Medicare system is North Korea. Are North Korea and Canada right and all other western countries wrong in their approach?

I hope that Douglas has enough grace to write a letter of apology to Day.

Marvin R.V. Storrow is a Vancouver lawyer whose clients include private medical clinics.