

# Health Care Policy Brief

---

CANADIAN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CLINICS ASSOCIATION

---

## **About CIMCA**

Founded in Vancouver in 2005, the Canadian Independent Medical Clinics Association (CIMCA) is a non-profit organization that represents independent medical clinics and their supporters across the nation in pursuit of improved access to high quality and timely health care for all Canadians.

## **Our Mission**

- To support high quality patient care and the highest professional and ethical standards
- To nurture cooperation between independent and public health care organizations
- To improve public policies that impact on access to health care
- To support innovation and new technology and promote accountability in the Canadian health system

## **Contact**

Zoltan Nagy  
Executive Vice-President, CIMCA  
Tel: 604.688.6364  
Email: [zoltan@cimca.ca](mailto:zoltan@cimca.ca)

---

# Health Care Policy Brief

---

## CANADIAN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CLINICS ASSOCIATION

### Landscape Survey of Health Care in Canada

#### **CIMCA strongly supports Canada's universal publicly funded health care system and seeks reforms to help Medicare overcome its current challenges:**

- Approximately two million Canadians are on health care wait lists (92% Increase from 1993).
- 50% of Children wait a medically unacceptable length of time.
- The Supreme Court of Canada stated that patients die due to widespread delays for public health care.
- Nearly 45% of provincial budgets are spent on health care and climbing.

#### **Canada trails the world in health care delivery:**

- Canada's health care system is rated 30th in a World Health Organization survey.
- Canada is one of the top three countries in health care costs (Canadian Institute for Health Information).
- Canada is near bottom in access to new technology (OECD).
- Most developed countries - such as France, Germany and Britain - provide universal health care systems complemented by private sector options.
- The WHO's top six ranked countries have no wait lists and spend less.

#### **Canadians expect and deserve better:**

- Supreme Court affirms a citizen's right to protect their own health and to obtain private health insurance in Quebec.
- Over seven out of ten Canadians support the Supreme Court decision allowing supplementary private health insurance and care (COMPAS poll, January 2006).
- Over five out of ten Canadians agree with the option to pay privately for faster treatment (Pollara poll, June 2005).

# Health Care Policy Brief

---

## CANADIAN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CLINICS ASSOCIATION

### CIMCA's Health Care Objectives

CIMCA encourages federal and provincial authorities to improve patient care with a renewed universal publicly funded health care system complemented by independent health care facilities.

A renewed health care system should highlight the following features:

- **Access:** To deliver health care services in a timely manner and eliminate wait lists altogether.
- **Quality:** To provide high quality patient care and promote the highest professional and ethical standards.
- **Choice:** To give patients the choice of public and private health care delivery, financing and insurance.
- **Innovation:** To promote innovation and the introduction of new technology.
- **Accountability:** To promote the responsible and efficient use of public resources through performance measures of medical procedures and competition with the independent sector.

# Health Care Policy Brief

---

## CANADIAN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CLINICS ASSOCIATION

### CIMCA's Health Care Proposal

CIMCA recommends the following improvements and enhancements to Canada's health care system:

1. Strengthen the publicly funded system by increasing supply of medical services through independent health care facilities:
  - Support expansion of independent health care clinics specializing in certain high-volume procedures.
  - Maximize the use of existing health care facilities.
  - Encourage private sector investment in clinics to update medical technology.
  - Encourage hospitals and health authorities to contract out procedures to independent clinics that meet the most stringent professional standards.
  - Improve working conditions, including pay and benefits to health care workers.
  
2. Structure health care financing through a publicly insured system complemented by private sector financing and insurance options:
  - Strengthen government funded universal health care coverage.
  - Amend legislation to accommodate private health care insurance.
  - Lift the ban on private insurance by amending the Canada Health Act and other provincial health legislation and regulation.
  - Give patients the option to pay for medical procedures through private health care insurance or out-of-pocket.

# Health Care Policy Brief

---

## CANADIAN INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CLINICS ASSOCIATION

### Health Care Outcomes

#### **Quality care and medical choice for all patients**

- Health care will be provided when needed and wait lists will cease to exist.
- Patients will receive the best practices in medical treatment and procedures with the best equipment available.
- The health system will be driven by patient results instead of bureaucratic rationing.

#### **A responsive system that meets the needs of patients and health care workers**

- Improved working conditions and better utilization of resources will help alleviate the doctor and nursing shortage.
- Opportunity for private clinics to open in underserved communities in Canada and improve access to medical technology, such as MRIs.
- Canada will rise from the bottom to the top of the world best health care systems.

#### **Opportunities for jobs, investment and stable health care funding**

- Competition between the public and private systems will foster greater productivity.
- Efficient use of public resources will free up provincial budgets for other priority expenditures, such as education and infrastructure renewal.
- Up to \$40 billion annually on new non-governmental investment in private health care will create jobs across the country, including remote areas underserved by the public health system.