

Sample Letter

Date of Letter

Dear Name of your MLA or other gov' official here,

I am writing you as a member of your constituency to encourage you to do your best to protect and enhance public health care. Strengthening the public system *from within*, and not through more privatization and for-profit health services, is a priority for my community, and for most Canadians.

In the past, federal, provincial, and territorial politicians worked together to build a public health care system so all people could have equal access to care based on need, not on our ability to pay. Politicians did it because they were representing the desires of the people who elected them. It was not easy, as insurance companies, physicians, and some financial and corporate interests were adamantly opposed.

Today, Medicare is under attack. There are those who are working hard and lobbying you to commercialize our public health care for their own profit. But you need to know that Canadians understand that private insurance and for-profit health care are not the solutions to the challenges facing Medicare today. We want our system improved, not dismantled.

I am determined to prevent any government from dismantling our most cherished social program. That's why I am asking you to work to:

- **Fix wait time problems *within* the public system.** Manage wait lists better. Boost capacity by strengthening services in existing hospitals and building more innovative *public* hospitals and clinics.
- **Extend Medicare to include prescription drugs.** This would deliver savings to provincial governments and deliver safe and cost-effective drug therapies to more Canadians.
- **Stop contracting out hospital support services.** Keeping them public is key to healthier patients and cleaner facilities.
- **Improve the overall structure of health care delivery.** Let's reform front-line health care, deliver more public homecare, and create more public community health and long-term care facilities.
- **Keep people healthy in the first place.** Reduce poverty, poor nutrition and other "social determinants" of ill-health.
- **Enforce the Canada Health Act and stop two-tier health care.** Build on the successes of public health insurance programs and not-for-profit delivery. Two-tier care takes money away from patients and turns it into profits.
- **Recruit and retain more health care professionals in the public system.** Doctors should be banned from working in both systems – this leads to longer wait times in the public system.

My support for you in the next election is dependent on your endorsement of these positions and your efforts to make them a reality.

I hope I can count on your support.

Sincerely,