

## **CFUW Policy: Health Care [doctor shortage]**

CFUW, 1996 CFUW Nepean (Ontario)

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women call upon the Government of Canada and the **provincial and territorial governments** to ensure quality health care and preventive health care programs which are universal, accessible, comprehensive, portable and publicly administered and that all reforms to the health care system incorporate these five principles of Medicare as outlined in the Canada Health Act (1984).

### **Background**

According to Statistics Canada, 3,397,007 people in BC had a family doctor in 2012. By 2013 that number had fallen by 27,947 to 3,369,060. In 2014 it was lower still at 3,361,856.

In 2010, 176,000 British Columbians were looking for a family physician. In 2016, it is now estimated that more than 200,000 British Columbians are looking for a family physician. Even though the population of BC has grown in that time, population growth does not completely account for the increase in people without a family physician.

Last summer the CBC and local media reported that here in Victoria even the walk-in clinics were critically impacted with some being forced to close at times.

Victoria has the second-largest percentage of seniors in B.C. — 19.5 per cent as of 2014, according to Statistics Canada. The average across Canada is 15.7 per cent. Seniors are more likely to require greater medical attention than other segments of the population.

Regardless of the causes, recent attempts to solve BC's doctor shortage are clearly not having satisfactory results.

### **All Candidates Meeting Question**

**I am a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women, which in the Victoria area has more than 250 members. Since Victoria has the second largest percentage of seniors in BC and seniors often require more medical services than other segments of the population, and since Victoria's doctor shortage is so severe that even walk-in clinics must sometimes close their doors, we are especially concerned about our critical shortage of family doctors. Clearly, recent efforts to deal with this situation are not having the desired result. If your party forms the government, what steps will you take, in addition to increasing funding to healthcare,?**