

Consumer-driven health care

I am in favour of a publically-funded, government-operated health care system -- as are virtually all Canadians (it's a Canadian thing). However, the system as it exists now does not optimize itself around the consumers of health care – Albertans.

I would re-orient the system toward a consumer-driven health care system. A consumer-driven system would force health care providers to competitively and efficiently meet the needs of health care consumers. This system does NOT contravene the Canada Health Act.

A healthy 58 year-old would potentially have access to \$525,000 for medical or health or assisted-living options. At 75 healthy years of age, there would be \$834,000 to play with. That should buy a hip or two.

[Alta currently spends \$14850M / yr on health care; 44% of total budget]

If the current system is perfect and operating at maximum efficiency then, in theory, nothing will change under a consumer-driven system. I suspect, however, that would not be the case.

The Consumer-Driven Health Care System

1. recognition of a parallel Consumers' Health Association;
 1. to certify or “list” consumer-preference health programs, services, practitioners, or commodities.
2. public empowerment based upon direct funding of citizens (likely through an Alberta Treasury Branch health card) instead of the suppliers of health care;
3. **Standard disease system [existing]**
 1. **citizen choice restricted to existing physician-directed options (aka Standard status quo);**
 2. physicians bill publically-funded customer rather than government.

The 3 points of this policy work together reflecting *choice in health care* and the exercise of *consumer demand* while at the same time maintaining the existing standard medical model.

The health consumer [card] would be fluffed up to the tune of \$5000 / annually (and retroactive in previous-year-dollars to number of years of Alberta residency). Unused current balances are carried forward.

* *The \$5000 is based upon existing expenditure and is revenue neutral.*