

Notes from Linda Silas, President CFNU

“Courage my friends – ‘tis not too late to build a better world.” – Tommy Douglas.

Sometimes I just shake my head in disbelief. Not since its inception over 40 years ago has Medicare been so threatened. Roy Romanow’s landmark report is almost a ghost in today’s political debates on health care. We should be talking about improving Aboriginal health, expanding home care, and implementing a national Pharmacare program and Primary Care services instead of “should we or shouldn’t we” privatize. Evidence and experience has proven that for-profit delivery of health care is regressive, more costly and less effective. Canada already has high private spending, with just over 30% of all health expenditures paid for outside the public health system!

This book, ***Conversations with Champions of Medicare***, will serve as a timely reminder of what is at stake. Whether you are a politician, nurse, doctor, artist, journalist, lawyer or a student, anyone can champion Medicare. I am inspired by and indebted to Allan Blakeney, Monique Bégin, Kathleen Connors, Shirley Douglas, Tom Kent, Roy Romanow, Dr. Hugh Scully, Evelyn Shapiro and Sharon Sholzberg-Gray. In conversation with journalist Ann Silversides, these great Canadians share why they support Medicare and offer their thoughts about its future.

Thanks are due to the New Health Professionals Network for this preview of the future face of Medicare. This coalition of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, physiotherapists, chiropractors and occupational therapists in training prescribes a collaborative approach for Medicare’s sustainability. Nursing student Beth Bronson, emergency resident Alim Pardhan and student physiotherapist Kroum Pavlov are not content to passively watch the erosion of Tommy Douglas’ vision, preferring to be active partners with all levels in finding and implementing solutions. Bravo and merci!

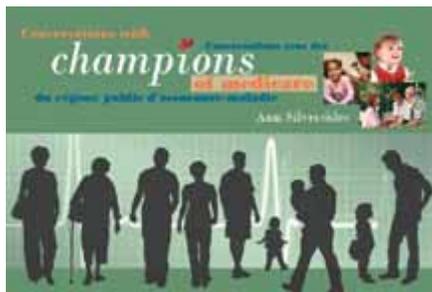
**Someone once said that health care is like hockey – it is team work!
Together with our allies in the Canadian Health Coalition, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions is making a difference in the defense and expansion of Medicare.**

Conversations with Champions of Medicare would not have been possible without Ann Silversides who has so ably captured the spirit and drive of these Medicare champions.

Conversations with Champions of Medicare

by Ann Silversides

A New book published by the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions



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