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COUNCIL

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## Resolution on Health Care

The 1984 resolution on health care also relates somewhat to the economic justice issue.

- that access to the tax-supported Medicare system be preserved and accessible to all legal residents of Canada;
- that physicians and surgeons providing essential medical services be prohibited from opting out of the Medicare system and from extra-billing their patients;
- that deterrent or user fees be prohibited;
- and that the financing of the Medicare system be by taxation and not by the collection of premiums from individuals.

While the resolution notes that the present system “does not insure the full range of health care alternatives to costly hospitalization which are required to maintain people in their own homes and communities,” it makes no recommendations for remedying this.

The resolution encouraged the CUC to participate in the Canadian Health Coalition. We did participate in a limited way for several years, but after 1990 were unable to find a volunteer who would represent us.

This resolution would allow the CUC to speak out on the principles outlined, if the Board felt comfortable relying on the single motion passed in 1984. Aside from the direct financing issues outlined, however, the resolution is not helpful in responding to current issues in health care, including such matters as fee-for-service medicine, provision of adequate home care, hospice or long-term care facilities, or “deinstitutionalization” and the consequent need for community-based facilities.

Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting, 1984  
Canadian Unitarian Council