

No Day for the CMA!

Who: Dr. Brian Day, aka "Dr. Profit."



Dr. Day is part owner and medical director of Canada's largest for-profit health care clinic, located in Vancouver, British Columbia. He has been an active promoter of privatized, for-profit health

care. According to his resume (posted at www.brianday.ca), Dr. Day works at both the for-profit Cambie Surgical Centre, as well as the public University of British Columbia and Victoria hospitals. This is an example of "double-dipping," and Dr. Day's actions violate the Canada Health Act. He has actively lobbied a Senate Committee and the Romanow Commission on the "benefits" of for-profit health care, and has given presentations on the issue for the right-wing Fraser Institute, saying privatization is the only choice for health care delivery for "consumers." He is president of the Charter Health Fund, a national organization of for-profit promoters that raised money to support the Chaoulli Supreme Court case, arguing that people should be able to pay for private health care. His surgical centre, along with about a dozen other for-profit facilities, acted as interveners in the Chaoulli case.

What: In February 2006, Dr. Day was nominated as a candidate for president of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and is considered a front-runner for the position. The CMA is a powerful lobby group, representing more than 60,000 medical professionals across Canada. Candidates for president are selected on a rotating basis amongst the provinces and must be confirmed by the CMA's governing body at the CMA's annual general meeting.

Where: The CMA's annual general meeting will take place in Charlottetown, PEI.

When: August 20-23, 2006.

Why this matters: Most Canadians support a publicly-funded and publicly-delivered health care system and do not believe that profits should be made at the expense of the sick and injured. As president of the CMA, Dr. Day would be given extensive lobbying powers and political sway to push the for-profit health care agenda on behalf of medical professionals across Canada. It is in the best interest of Canada's health care system that someone who believes and adheres to the principles of the Canada Health Act represents medical professionals.

What you can do: Sign the bottom of this page and mail it to your doctor, urging him/her to ask CMA delegates to support an alternate candidate. Leave copies of this flyer in hospital and medical centre waiting rooms, and pass them along to your friends and family to send to their doctors.

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I respectfully ask that you urge delegates to the CMA's annual general meeting to support an alternate candidate to Dr. Brian Day as President of the Canadian Medical Association – one who will stand up for public health care. I support public health care and have grave concerns about Canada's medical professionals being represented by someone who provides and promotes for-profit health care.

Signed:

For more information about the Council of Canadians' campaign to protect public health care, visit www.profitisnotthecure.ca and www.canadians.org, or call us toll free at 1-800-387-7177.