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Health Care Reform:

The Evolving Opinion of Canadians



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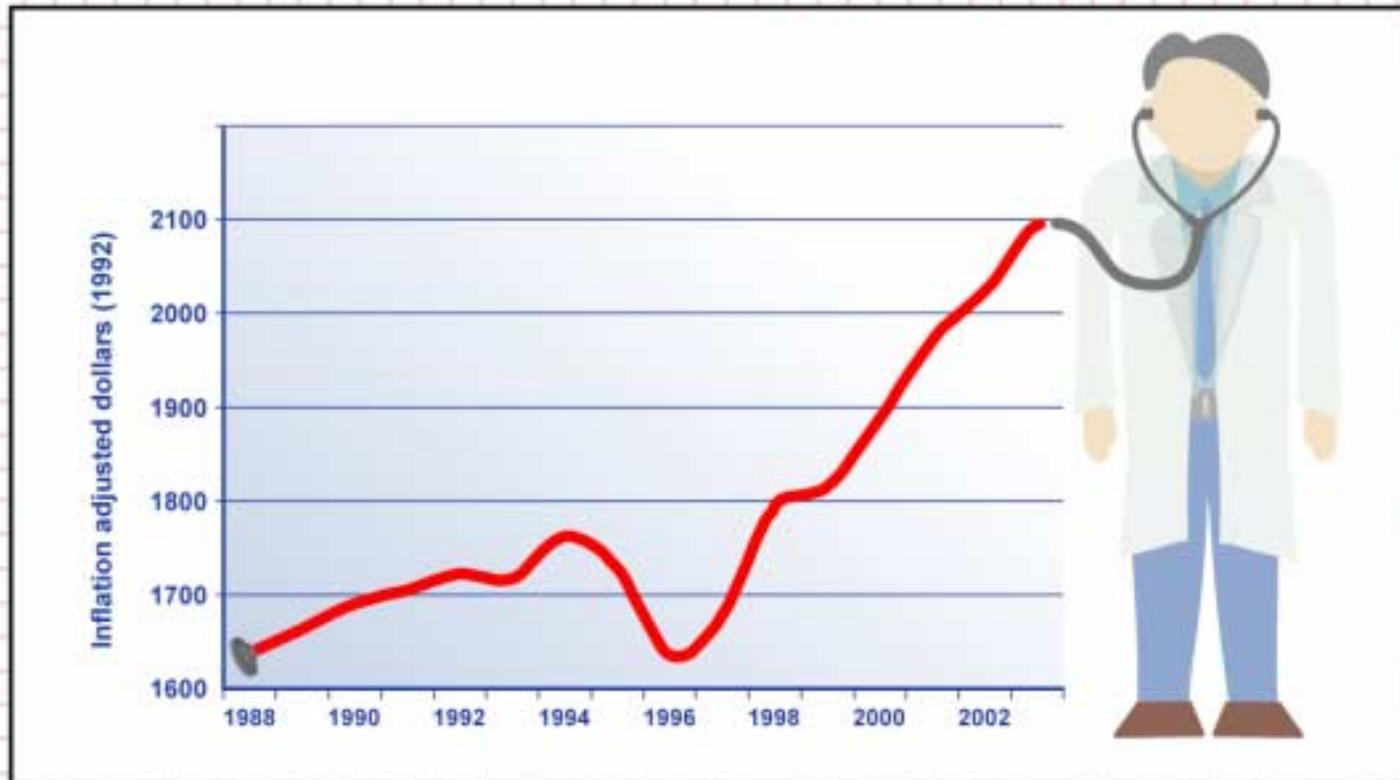
Part: 1

Public Health Care Spending:
Facts & Figures



Health Care Reform: The Evolving Opinion of Canadians

Real Public Health Care Spending, per capita (Quebec)



Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information,
and calculations by MEI economist Norma Kozhaya



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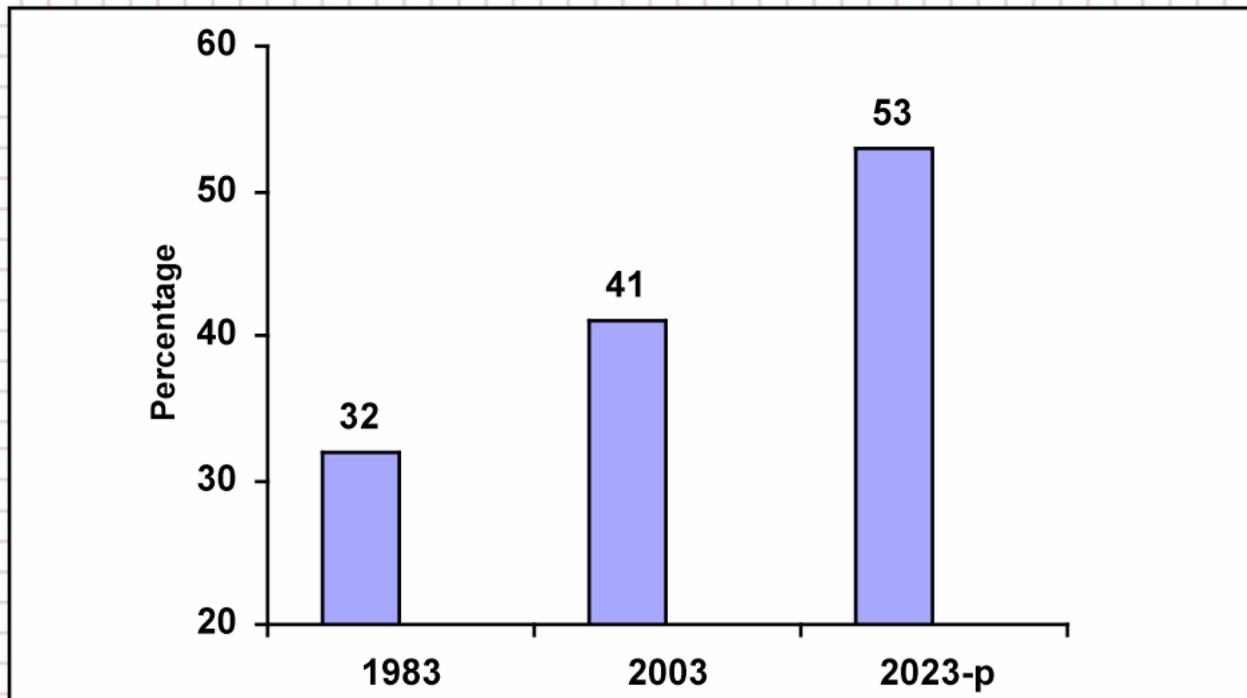
In inflation adjusted dollars, Quebec government spending in the health sector dropped in 1995 and 1996 by 1.5% and 5%, respectively.

However, between 1990 and 2003 spending increased by a total of 32%.



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Share of health care spending in provincial program spending (average of all provinces)



Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, Canadian Department of Finance
and calculations by MEI economist Norma Kozhaya

Note: p = projections



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Part: 2

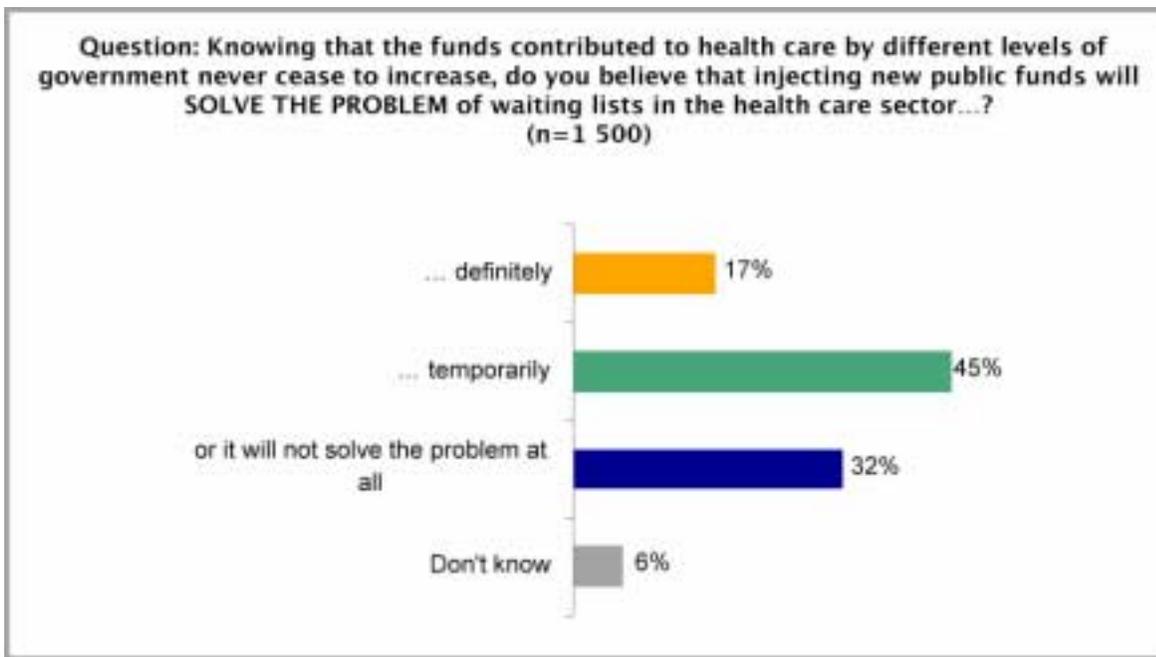
Health Care Reform:
Political Inertia *versus* Public Opinion



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Opinions of Canadians on the Impact of Injecting New Public Funds in the Health Care Sector on Waiting Lists (August 2004)

Injecting new public funds: a temporary solution to the problem of waiting lists in the health care sector, according to 45% of Canadians



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Opinions of Canadians on the Impact of Injecting New Public Funds in the Health Care Sector on Waiting Lists (August 2004)

Distribution according to Canadian regions

N=1 500	Will definitely solve the problem	Will temporarily solve the problem	Will not solve the problem at all	Don't know
Atlantic Provinces	20%	49%	24%	7%
Quebec	7% ↓	53% ↑	37% ↑	3% ↓
Ontario	21% ↑	39% ↓	33%	7%
Prairies	14%	46%	31%	8%
Alberta	19%	41%	33%	7%
British Columbia	20%	48%	25%	7%
Canada	17%	45%	32%	6%

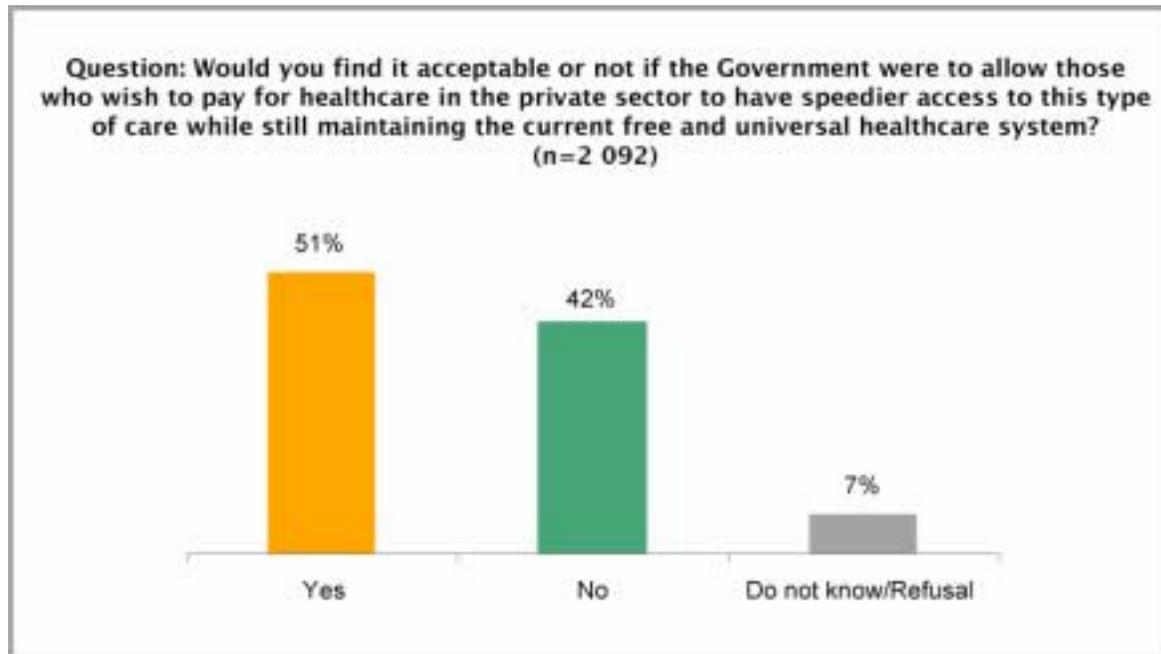
Note : Significant differences are indicated using ↑ if they are higher and ↓ if they are lower.



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The Opinion of Canadians on Access to Private Sector Healthcare (May 2004)

A majority of Canadians are in favour of increased access to healthcare in the private sector for those who would assume the cost of such services.



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The Opinion of Canadians on Access to Private Sector Healthcare (May 2004)

Distribution based on Voting Intentions

	Population as a Whole (n=2 092)	 Liberal	 Parti conservateur du Canada	 NPD	 BLOC QUEBECOIS
Yes	51%	54%	55%	39%	72%
No	42%	41%	38%	57%	26%
Do not know pas/Refusal	7%	5%	7%	4%	1%

Distribution according to Canadian Regions

N=2 092	Yes	No	Do not know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	42%	48%	10%
Québec	68%	30%	1%
Ontario	45%	48%	7%
Prairies	57%	37%	6%
Alberta	53%	39%	9%
British Columbia	49%	42%	8%
Canada	51%	42%	7%



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Part: 3

Health Care Reform:
International Comparisons



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International comparisons

Even though Canada spends more on health per capita than many OECD countries with older populations, its performance is less impressive in several respects if we rely on international comparisons.



Health Care Reform:

The Evolving Opinion of Canadians

Comparisons of health system performance among some OECD countries

	Total expenditure on health per capita, U.S. \$ PPP (2002)	Practising physicians - /1000 population (2002)	Number of MRI units - / million population (2002)	Acute care beds - /1000 population (2001)	Population 65 years old and over - % total population (2002)
Australia	2 504 \$	2.5	4.7	3.7	13 %
Austria	2 220 \$	3.3	13.4	6.2	16 %
Canada	2 931 \$	2.1	4.2	3.2	13 %
Denmark	2 580 \$	3.3	6.2	3.4	15 %
Germany	2 817 \$	3.3	5.5	9.0	17 %
Italy	2 166 \$	4.4	10.4	4.6	19 %
Luxembourg	2 139 \$	2.6	4.5	5.8	14 %
United Kingdom	2 160 \$	2.1	4.0	3.9	16 %



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Part: 4

Health Care Reform:
The Swedish Example



Health Care Reform:

The Evolving Opinion of Canadians

The Swedish Example



Since being converted to a private company, St. Goran, Stockholm's emergency care hospital, has become Sweden's most efficient and least costly hospital, achieving yields 10% to 15% higher than those of other hospitals.



Health Care Reform:

The Evolving Opinion of Canadians

The Swedish Example



Sweden's recent experience shows us that it is possible to increase the efficiency of the system by means of market mechanisms while maintaining universal care.



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Thank you for your attention

Question period