



October 2, 2012

Letter to the Editor-in-Chief: *Vancouver Sun*

Re: "In praise of profits and health," October 2, 2012

The Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) is a strong defender of a publicly funded not-for-profit health system. In supporting privatization, Dr. Day chose a region in Italy that saw some of the best results in the country's experimentation with private care. A closer look at the study and Italy's overall health outcomes shows that it was increased public spending on health care that reduced avoidable mortality rates.

But the never-ending debate over private versus not-for-profit health care is clouding the very specific issue at play: should the sale of Shouldice Hospital to a for-profit company, Centric Health, be allowed. The answer is "absolutely not." Since Shouldice Hospital was operating long before the provinces adopted medicare, the facility was excepted from the law against for-profit hospitals. Shouldice was understood to be "grand-parented" in and subject to the understanding that clinics and hospitals must be publicly-funded and not-for-profit.

CNA and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario urge Ontario Minister of Health Deb Matthews to block the sale and reaffirm the government's commitment to the *Canada Health Act* and our publicly funded not-for profit system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Mildon'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barb Mildon, RN, PhD, CHE, CCHN(C)
President, Canadian Nurses Association