



The Globe and Mail

Letter to the Editor

Submitted March 2, 2011

Re: “What the Yukon can teach us about fixing health care”

The Canadian Nurses Association finds that Mr. Picard’s article hit the nail on the head in pointing out that Yukon’s health system woes are representative of the challenges that medicare must address nationwide. To tackle a problem and gauge progress in resolving it, you first need to measure it – yet this is precisely what our health system is lacking.

Canada’s registered nurses see no good reason why the federal, provincial and territorial governments cannot set national health goals with clear benchmarks, targets and action strategies. The problems of chronic disease, health human resource shortages and hospital bottlenecks are affecting all parts of the country. A pan-Canadian approach toward addressing them, with earmarked resources and clear lines of responsibility and accountability, is desperately needed. The upcoming health accord provides a golden opportunity for all levels of government to act together before it’s too late. Let’s hope they do!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Judith Shamian'.

Judith Shamian, RN, PhD, LLD (hon), D.Sci. (hon), FAAN
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