

Overview of Innovations in Canadian Healthcare

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About the Client:

Canadian Doctors for Medicare



Canadian Doctors for Medicare stepped into the national health care debate in May 2006 when a group of physicians and friends became concerned about the increased privatization in Canadian health care and the development of a two-tiered health care system. They believed this would allow wealth to buy private insurance for private care at the expense of the vast majority of Canadians.

Canadian Doctors for Medicare advocates for the maintenance, defense, and improvement of accessible and equitable public healthcare in Canada. The organization is overseen by a board of practicing physicians from across the country, and it serves those who believe access to health care should be based on need, not wealth or status.

About the Project:

Project Scope:

The project was largely research based and required a Pan-Canadian jurisdictional scan to identify innovations within Canada's publicly funded health care system. This was demonstrated through Canadian Doctors for Medicare's project proposal was created with the intent to aid in knowledge translation of these innovative approaches within the profession and the general public. In addition, this project focused on innovations within British Columbia in order to support Canadian Doctors for Medicare's current legal position, supporting Canada's publicly funded healthcare system.

Project Rationale:

The project's objective was to use the research compiled for Canadian Doctor's for Medicare to disseminate information about current and past innovations within the public health care system, while building a robust case against privatization.

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Methodology:

- **Phase 1** – Literature Review and Jurisdictional Scan
 - Compiled literature from think tanks and public-health related databases that highlighted active innovations throughout Canada.
- **Phase 2** – Innovation Spotlight
 - Certain innovations were found to demonstrate up to a 90% decrease in estimated wait-times for patients.
 - The use of digital applications on mobile technology were found to increase access to information regarding public wait-times.
 - Rescoped project to incorporate a British Columbia-centric focus to appropriately meet the needs of the client.
- **Phase 3** – Presentation to CDM
 - Engaged in a constructive dialogue that highlighted innovations within British Columbia, as informed by national analysis.
 - Articulated the applicability of the deliverables to CDM's legal position.

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES

- This project highlighted leading healthcare-centric innovations within Canada's publicly funded healthcare system.
- Consultants researched the impact changes to Canada's healthcare system (i.e. a 2-tier-public-private model) could have on current innovations.
- Created a BC-centric Innovation Spotlight to support CDM's intervener status in ongoing legal cases.

PROJECT IMPACT

- This project highlighted the significant reductions in wait times many innovative approaches to healthcare have made in Canada's public healthcare system.
- The project was also able to demonstrate the ways in which healthcare delivery would be negatively impacted by a two-tier system, and the impacts that system users would face.

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