

## **CARP Health Focus Poll Report December 19, 2014**

### **Key Findings**

**There is wide agreement the health care system needs disruptive change to become sustainable, and there is virtually unanimous agreement that CARP's five health care pillars; socioeconomics, preventive care, timeliness and accessibility, caregivers and end-of-life, are important to this process.**

**One half of members agree the health care system must undergo major improvements to become sustainable, while a third believe it needs to undergo a fundamental, disruptive redesign, and reducing wait times, reducing the rate at which costs increase and making the system more patient-centred and less procedure oriented are seen to be the ways to do this.**

**The vast majority approve of CARP's call for a more patient-centred system, three quarters agree the system is difficult to navigate and one half agree that the health care system as constituted meets the principles laid out in the preamble to the Canada Health Act.**

**Virtually all members find CARP's five pillars of health care reform (addressing socioeconomic inequalities in care, illness and disease prevention, timely access to care in the right place, caregiver support and end-of-life care) to be important to reforming the system.**

**Three quarters agree that the health care system will have to let go of some cherished privileges and customs in order to rebuild.**

**The Liberals remain in first place, and the NDP in distant third. More members think the Liberals will win than plan to vote for them, which is a good predictor for a Liberal victory if the election were held today..**

## Detailed Findings

One half of members agree that many aspects of the health care system need to be improved for it to become sustainable, while fewer opt for the most transformative option, a complete redesign of the system (35%). Few think few changes (9%) or no change is needed (1%).

***What must happen to the health care system in Canada to allow it to move sustainably into the future?***

<b>Improve many aspects of current system</b>	51%
<b>Fundamental redesign of health care delivery</b>	35%
<b>Minor changes in health care system</b>	9%
<b>NO CHANGE REQUIRED</b>	1%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	4%

Wait times (29%) and the fast-increasing cost of health care (21%) are the aspects of the system most in need of attention, along with becoming a patient centred system, instead of product oriented (18%).

***Which one aspect of the health care system in Canada is most in need of improvement?***

<b>Reducing wait times</b>	29%
<b>Reducing rising cost of health care</b>	21%
<b>Making system centred on patients, not procedures</b>	18%
<b>Pharmacare/high drug costs</b>	8%
<b>Better palliative/end-of-life care</b>	7%
<b>Difficulty navigating system</b>	6%
<b>Impersonal attitude of health care system</b>	5%
<b>Delivery of/access to chronic care</b>	4%
<b>NO IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED</b>	*
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

Virtually all members approve of CARP's call for a more patient-centred, home-based health care system (95%), and one half approve strongly (51%).

***CARP has called for a change in the way health care is delivered in Canada, placing a greater emphasis on patient-centred preventive and chronic care delivered at home or in the community. Do you approve or disapprove of this idea?***

<b>APPROVE</b>	<b>95%</b>
Approve strongly	51%
Approve	44%
<b>DISAPPROVE</b>	<b>3%</b>
Disapprove	2%
Disapprove strongly	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>3%</b>

Most agree that older patients find the system hard to negotiate (79%), and about one quarter agree strongly (27%).

***Do you agree or disagree that older Canadians and their families find the health care system is difficult to navigate?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>79%</b>
Agree strongly	27%
Agree	52%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>11%</b>
Disagree	10%
Disagree strongly	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>11%</b>

Half disagree the health care system fulfills the preamble to the Canada Health Act, promising equal and fair access to health care for all Canadians (50%),.

***The preamble to the Canada Health Act states that “continued access to quality health care without financial or other barriers will be critical to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of Canadians”. Do you agree or disagree the current health system meets these principles?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>46%</b>
Agree strongly	11%
Agree	35%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>50%</b>
Disagree	37%
Disagree strongly	13%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>5%</b>

Members were asked to rate the importance of CARP’s five health care pillars; addressing socioeconomic aspects of care, illness prevention, timely access to care in the right place, caregiver support and end-of-life care.

Virtually all members think it important for the health care system to address socioeconomic inequalities in patients (93%), and 3-in-10 say it is “extremely important” (30%).

***How important is it for the health care system in Canada to be designed to account for, and minimize socioeconomic inequalities in health care delivery?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>93%</b>
Extremely important	30%
Very important	45%
Somewhat important	18%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>5%</b>
Not very important	3%
Not at all important	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>2%</b>

The most important socioeconomic factor to address is poverty among some patients, including seniors, children and families (35%), followed by independent living for seniors (27%) and harm reduction in lifestyle behaviours (10%). One tenth think the system has no role in ameliorating socioeconomic inequalities (9%).

***Which of the following socioeconomic factors is the most important for the health care system to address?***

<b>Poverty/low income seniors/children/families</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Ability of seniors to live independently</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Reduction of harmful lifestyle behaviours</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Social integration and engagement in community</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Stigma around mental health/disease</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>HEALTH SYSTEM HAS NO SOCIOECONOMIC ROLE</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>5%</b>

Virtually all members see preventive care as important (98%), and fully half see it as “extremely important” (50%).

***How important is it for the health care system in Canada to prevent illness and poor health?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>98%</b>
<b>Extremely important</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Very important</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Not very important</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>1%</b>

The most important aspect of preventive care is seen to be education on healthy lifestyles (42%), followed by home calls/home care for those with chronic conditions (25%), and interventions in poor living environments (18%). Very few think the health care system has no role in prevention (2%)

***Which of the following factors affecting preventive care is most important for the health care system to deal with?***

<b>Education on disease prevention/healthy lifestyles</b>	42%
<b>Home calls/home care for chronic conditions</b>	25%
<b>Intervention in poor environments/assisted living</b>	18%
<b>Education/promotion for vaccination</b>	8%
<b>HEALTH SYSTEM HAS NO PREVENTIVE ROLE</b>	2%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	5%

Every member sees timely access to care in the right place as important (100%), and more than half see it as “extremely” important (54%).

***How important is it for the health care system in Canada to provide citizens with medical care at the time and in the place it's needed?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Extremely important</b>	54%
<b>Very important</b>	41%
<b>Somewhat important</b>	5%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	*
<b>Not very important</b>	*
<b>Not at all important</b>	-
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	*

The aspects of timely care in the right place which are seen to need the most attention are reducing wait times primarily (36%), followed by reducing waste in the system (20%), involving the community more in care (14%) and more home-based care (10%). Almost none see no need for improvement.

***Which of the following factors affecting timely care in the right place is most important for the health care system to address?***

<b>Reducing wait times</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>System overhaul to reduce waste</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>More community-based care</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Home-based care</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>More training for more medical personnel</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>House-calls</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>NO IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>2%</b>

Caregiver support is important to all members (97%), and more than a third find it “extremely important” (36%).

***How important is it for the health care system in Canada to offer caregiver and family support***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Extremely important</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Very important</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Not very important</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>1%</b>

The factors contributing to caregiver support which members think are key include caregiver respite and relief (34%), basic medical training for caregivers (24%), financial support for those who are unpaid (15%) and job protection for those who must take time off work (12%). Very few think the system has no role in caregiver support (4%).

***Which of the following factors affecting caregiver and family support is most important for the health care system to address?***

<b>Caregiver respite/relief</b>	34%
<b>Basic training for caregivers</b>	24%
<b>Financial support for unpaid caregivers</b>	15%
<b>Job protection for caregivers</b>	12%
<b>Improve social contract/working conditions for PCWs</b>	6%
<b>SYSTEM HAS NO ROLE IN CAREGIVER SUPPORT</b>	4%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	6%

Every member sees end-of-life care as important (99%), and one half see it as “extremely important” (52%).

***How important is it for the health care system in Canada to offer supportive and responsive end-of-life care?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>99%</b>
Extremely important	52%
Very important	37%
Somewhat important	10%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>1%</b>
Not very important	1%
Not at all important	*
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>1%</b>

The most important aspect of end-of-life care is seen to be universal and simple access to palliative care everywhere (43%), followed by education on the options available at the end of life (19%). In a similar vein, choices available at the end of life should be emphasized (15%), as well as legislating the right to palliative care (13%). Very few think the system has no role at the end of life (2%).

***Which of the following factors affecting end-of-life care is it most important for the health care system to address?***

<b>Universal/easy access to palliative care</b>	43%
<b>Education on end-of-life options</b>	19%
<b>Emphasize care choices available at end-of-life</b>	15%
<b>Legislating the right to palliative care</b>	13%
<b>Teach attitude of respect in care workers</b>	6%
<b>SYSTEM HAS NO ROLE IN END-OF-LIFE CHOICES</b>	2%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

Three quarters agree that a fundamental disruption of the current hospital/procedure based health care system will be necessary in order to arrive at the kind of rebuilt health care system CARP calls for (77%), but just one third agree strongly (32%).

***Do you agree or disagree the entire hospital and clinic-based medical establishment will have to change routines, interact more with other disciplines, give up control of much of its funding and change the way medical care has traditionally been delivered in order to allow the kind of transformational change CARP recommends for the health care system in Canada?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	32%
<b>Agree</b>	45%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	9%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	14%

## Electoral Preference

Slightly more members expect the Liberals to win (51%) than plan to vote for them (47%) which is a good predictive indicator for a Liberal victory. However, more think the Conservatives will win than will vote for them (44% vs 35%), but at a lower level than the Liberals. This is a result of the redistribution of the NDP vote, where intention to vote (12%) is stronger than expectation of victory (3%).

***If a federal election were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you support/and which party do you EXPECT to win the next election?***

	<b>Vote For</b>	<b>Expect To Win</b>
<b>Liberals</b>	47%	51%
<b>Conservatives</b>	35%	44%
<b>NDP</b>	12%	3%
<b>Green</b>	4%	*

The Liberals are in first place with a twelve point lead (47%) over the Conservatives in second (35%) The NDP (12%) remain in third place.

***More than 1300 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between December 2 and 14, 2014. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 3%, 19 times out of 20***