



Reinventing Canada's Healthcare System

Stephen Skyvington

Political Pundit, Expert in Health Care Policy and
President of PoliTrain Inc.

November 1, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

In this workshop, join Stephen Skyvington, author of *This May Hurt a Bit: Reinventing Canada's Healthcare System*, to discuss and debate the ways in which Canada's healthcare system can and *should* be reinvented. Inspired by his own first-hand experience, both personal and professional, Skyvington will take participants on a journey through some of the key conclusions and recommendations put forth in his recent book. According to Skyvington, the future of healthcare in Canada is in trouble and this will affect all Canadians. However, "there is another way, a better way, to deliver and fund health care here in our country".

Throughout the day participants will tackle a series of major problems with Canada's healthcare system. By employing lateral thinking to structure the discussion, they will ask the following questions "How might we? Why would we want to? And what's stopping us from doing so?"

Outline

Session 1 - 9:00am - 10:30am

- Introduction & Marching Orders
- GroupThink (I): Solving Five Problems

Break - 10:30am - 10:45am

Session 2 - 10:45am - 12:00pm

- Sharing (I)

Lunch - 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Session 3 - 1:30pm - 2:30pm

- GroupThink (II): Solving Five More Problems

Break - 2:30pm – 2:45pm

Session 4 - 2:45pm - 4:30pm

- Sharing (II)
- Conclusion & Wrap Up





GroupThink (I)

1. Stop lying to us – politicians and bureaucrats.
2. Put patients first, ideology second.
3. Revise the Canada Health Act so that “quality” becomes the sixth principle.
4. Combine all of Canada’s provincial and territorial health ministries into one federal “super ministry” with one health minister.
5. Stop focusing on illness and figure out how to keep us healthy instead.

GroupThink (II)

1. Open the door to “medical tourism.”
2. Invest heavily in long-term care — or be prepared to face the consequences.
3. Bring back co-payments and user fees and introduce tax-free medical savings accounts.
4. Allow Canadians to pay the services we want by introducing a parallel private health care system, and allow it to operate above board (the so-called hybrid solution).
5. Fund it or free it.

Required Readings*

Martin, Danielle. 2017. *Better Now: six big ideas to improve health care for all Canadians*. Toronto: Allen Lane:

- “Prologue” & “The Basics”, pp. 1-47 - <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF421A>

Skyvington, Stephen. 2019. *This May Hurt A Bit: Reinventing Canada’s Health Care System*. Toronto: Dundurn:

- “Back to the Future”, pp. 21-61 <http://reserves.concordia.ca/ares/ares.dll/plink?14EF425A>

Simpson, Jeffrey. 2012. *Chronic Condition: Why Canada’s Health Care System Needs to be Dragged Into the 21st Century*. Toronto: Allen Lane:

- “Introduction” – available [here](#)

Workshops on Social Science Research (WSSSR)
1455 de Maisonneuve W. – H1 2Z5 30
Montreal, Qc H3G 1M8
Telephone: 514-848-2424 x5473

