

inherent responsibilities and expectations of the committee.

Since February 2007, CADTH has also designated two public member positions on its Canadian Optimal Medical Prescribing and Utilization Service (COMPUS) Expert Review Committee. This has proven particularly beneficial to CADTH, not only for purposes of transparency, but also to ensure that CADTH's work reflects the needs and values of Canadians.

CADTH will continue to look at opportunities for productive public engagement and involvement. There will be difficult choices ahead, and we all have a common interest in helping to ensure the sustainability of Canada's health system, today and tomorrow.

Brian O'Rourke BSc(Pharm) PharmD
President and CEO, Canadian Agency for
Drugs and Technologies in Health,
Ottawa, Ont.

Reference

1. Chafe R, Levinson W, Hébert P. The need for public engagement in choosing health priorities. *CMAJ* 2011;183:165.

CMAJ 2011. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.111-2010

The organization I represent — Seniors' Action and Liaison Team (SALT), Edmonton, Alberta — fully supports the intent of this issue's editorial by Chafe, Levinson and Hébert.¹ However, one point needs clarification.

The editorial cites the recent public consultation on the Alberta Health Act as one of the "positive examples of public engagement at the provincial and regional levels." Members of SALT participated in these consultations in good faith. In addition, we made a written submission that included the following: "Members of SALT have participated in a number of government-sponsored consultations in recent years. The results have always been disappointing. With

hindsight, the usual impression has been that the key decisions had already been taken and the consultation was merely an exercise in public relations. There has been no sense that the input had been willingly sought or, when given, seriously considered."

We have seen and heard nothing in the past few months to suggest that the Alberta government's consultation strategy has changed.

John Wodak MA PhD

Chair, SALT, Edmonton, Alta.

Reference

1. Chafe R, Levinson W, Hébert P. The need for public engagement in choosing health priorities. *CMAJ* 2011;183:165.

CMAJ 2011. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.111-2014

Some letters have been abbreviated for print. See www.cmaj.ca for full versions.

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