

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 16, 2013

### **Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic invites everyone to attend a Canadian Public Health Forum: with an emphasis on the North.**

**Yellowknife** - Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic is pleased to invite everyone to attend a Canadian Public Health Forum: with an emphasis on the North. The forum will be hosted by NDP Health Critic Libby Davies MP Vancouver East at the Baker Centre (5710-50 Ave, Yellowknife, NT) on Saturday January 19, 2013 at 1:00pm

The public forum will discuss the future of public health care in Canada with presentations by Sandra Lockhart, Alternatives North and the NWT Chief Medical Officer, Andre Corriveau.

“We are the only federal party having this discussion right now, because the NDP believes that Medicare is a cornerstone of our country”, said Davies. “Collaborative efforts between provincial, territorial, and federal governments will ensure that all Canadians have access to high-quality health care for generations to come”.

In March 2012, the Council of the Federation Working Group on Health Care Innovation released a report entitled **“From Innovation to Action”** during the Premiers meetings in Halifax. The NDP supported the findings of the report and released the following press statement:

### **HARPER MUST LISTEN TO PREMIERS ON THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE**

#### **Conservatives should honour their Health Accord commitments: NDP**

HALIFAX - New Democrats are calling on Stephen Harper to work with Canada's first ministers on initiatives to improve and sustain our public health care system.

Commenting on the Premiers newly released report, 'From Innovation to Action' today in Halifax, New Democrat Health Critic Libby Davies said, “Canadians want to see the federal government show leadership and engage with the premiers about the future of our health care system. The premiers are united in their disapproval of Mr. Harper's take-it-or-leave-it approach to health care funding”.

Canada's premiers have recognized the growing differences between provincial health care systems, releasing a report today which highlights key areas where

they will collaborate to improve the quality of health care across the country, including the adoption of clinical practice guidelines for treating heart disease and diabetes and bulk-buying generic prescription medications.

“The premiers have shown their commitment to improving health care for all Canadians, so why is the Prime Minister stepping away from his responsibilities?”, said Davies. “This government said it will honour its commitment to the 2003-2004 Health Accords and in the Canada Health Act, but they have taken no action to follow through on their promises”.

“The invitation to come out to the forum and take part in the presentations and discussions is extended to all constituents in the Northwest Territories”, Bevington concludes “this is an essential issue that affects all northerners.”

To read the “**From Innovation to Action**” report here:

<http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/pdfs/Health%20Innovation%20Report-E-WEB.pdf>

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