

Viewpoints Research Ltd.
Winnipeg Manitoba
Telephone Survey for United Nurses of Alberta

Fielded to 402 Alberta Residents From October 16-19, 2005

Selected questions:

- Q1 Generally speaking would you say that the provincial government in Alberta is heading in the right direction or is off on the wrong track?
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Right direction | 63.7% |
| Wrong track | 26.1% |
| Don't know / Refused | 10.2% |
- Q2 Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of health care available in Alberta?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Very satisfied | 15.9% |
| Somewhat satisfied | 50.7% |
| Somewhat dissatisfied | 23.1% |
| Very dissatisfied..... | 9.0% |
| Don't know / Refused | 1.2% |
- Q3 Thinking about health care services in Alberta, do you think that there is too much, not enough or about the right amount now paid for by private insurance companies?
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Too much..... | 15.2% |
| Not enough | 30.1% |
| About the right amount | 34.6% |
| Don't know | 18.7% |
| Refused..... | 1.5% |
- Q4 The Alberta government has a plan to create a parallel private health system that would shift responsibility for the payment of some medical services now covered by public Medicare, to individuals and private insurance companies. Examples of the services that could be covered by patients and private insurance companies include most prescription drugs, long term care, as well as products like walkers and wheelchairs. Do you support or oppose this plan? **IF APPROPRIATE** Would that be strongly or moderately support / oppose?
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Strongly support..... | 13.9% |
| Moderately support | 22.9% |
| Moderately oppose..... | 18.7% |
| Strongly oppose | 40.0% |
| Don't know | 4.0% |
| Refused..... | 0.5% |

		STR AGREE (+2)	AGREE (+1)	DIS- AGREE (-1)	STR DIS- AGREE (-2)	DK/ REF	MEAN
Q5	Increasing the role of private insurance companies won't improve wait times because it won't increase the number of doctors and nurses available to perform surgery and other medical procedures.	21.4%	46.3%	23.9%	5.0%	3.5%	0.57
Q6	To create a balance between universal health care and controlling skyrocketing costs, public Medicare should cover the cost of basic, essential health services and private insurance should cover everything else.	10.7%	32.1%	35.1%	17.7%	4.5%	-0.18
Q7	To ensure more patients are treated, doctors should be allowed to bill both the public health system and to bill some patients privately at a higher rate.	5.2%	21.6%	39.6%	31.3%	2.2%	-0.72
Q8	Private insurance companies are more concerned about making profits than about paying for the medical services people need. That's a good reason for me to oppose the Alberta government's plan.	35.3%	44.5%	15.4%	1.5%	3.2%	1.00
Q9	Buying private insurance to cover medical services will be much more expensive for families than having these services covered by the existing tax-funded Medicare system. That's a good reason for me to oppose the government's plan.	27.4%	49.3%	19.9%	1.2%	2.2%	0.83
Q10	Albertans have seen how private automobile insurance companies increase premiums and restrict service. I'm concerned that the same could happen if the role of private health insurance companies increases in health care. That's a good reason for me to oppose the government's plan.	28.6%	48.8%	18.9%	2.5%	1.2%	0.83