

**M R G****NEWS LETTER**

MEDICAL REFORM GROUP OF ONTARIO  
P.O. BOX 366, STATION "J"  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4J 4Y8

VOL. 2 NO. 3

AUGUST, 1982

**FALL GENERAL MEETING OF MRG:**

The Fall General Meeting of the Medical Reform Group of Ontario will be held

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 22 & 23, 1982  
SOUTH RIVERDALE  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE,  
126 PAPE AVE., TORONTO

Friday evening, commencing at 7:00 p.m., there will be a general overview on OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, and how to do an Occupational Health History in your office.

On Saturday, October 23rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. there will be Workshops under the general Occupational Health subject, including the political and clinical areas.

11:30 - 1:00 will be reserved for the business of MRG's Steering Committee Reports, and other business of the association.

2:00 - 2:30 p.m. will consider the various regional reports, and reports of various other committees.

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. will be set aside to consider and act upon the Resolution agreed upon in principle at the May general meeting, a copy of which was sent to all members.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. New Business. (Members desiring to have items of new business considered, should advise members of the Steering Committee in advance - this being in the interest of time allotment.

More details will follow on this meeting. Meanwhile, you are asked to keep these dates open for your MRG.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** MRG's membership year is from October 1st and expires annually September 30th. There will be NO INCREASE in fees this year!!!

FEES are: Physicians, \$100.00; Affiliate Members, \$50.00; Organizations, \$50.00; Medical Students, \$20.00; and, Associate members, \$20.00.  
(Physicians, Affiliates and Associates joining for the first time pay only half the annual fees for their category.)

Membership fees should be sent, with your name, address (including postal code) and phone numbers, to the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, MEDICAL REFORM GROUP OF ONTARIO, P.O. BOX 366, STATION "J", TORONTO, M4J 4Y8



LONDON CHAPTER: London Chapter has been meeting monthly to discuss various articles on the economics of health care. They have looked at delivery systems in other jurisdictions such as Quebec's community health clinics and New Zealand's national health system.

Members attended an interesting confrontation on the issue of opting out between Gred Stoddart and Lionel Reese. This had been organized as a public event by one of the MRG members.

Three members of the Chapter have moved away to northern Ontario and developing countries to pursue their work in research and clinical medicine.

TORONTO CHAPTER: Interesting meetings have been held by the Toronto Chapter over the past several months. "The Chemical Society", an educational report by the Health Advocacy Unit, Toronto Public Health, was given by Doug Saunders, Trevor Hancock and Don Cole.

A discussion of the situation in Central America was led by Tim Draiman, editor of "Central America UPDATE", publication of the Jesuit Centre's Latin American Working Group.

Don Cole and Chris Daly conducted a session on Workshop Democracy, and David Coburn held a meeting on Patients' Rights.

Trevor Hancock and Paul Woolner discussed Reorganization of the Toronto Department of Public Health.

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PAMPHLET BEING CONSIDERED: The MRG Steering Committee is working on the possible publication of a pamphlet - "A Citizen's Guide to Ontario's Health Care System.

This is being coordinated by Joel Lexchin, and the initial outline suggests possible areas to be covered would include How the Health Care System is Organized; Where Does the Money Come From & Go To?; OHIP - How To Get It; What is Covered and Not Covered By OHIP; How Do Doctors Work; How To Get A Doctor; What To Do If You Get a Bill From An Opted-Out Doctor; Prescriptions; Your Rights As A Patient; Abortion; Guide to Mental Health Act; Guide to Occupational Health Act and WCB.

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LIBERAL PARTY TASK FORCE: According to reports the Liberal Party Task Force, chaired by Sheila Copps, MPP for Hamilton Centre, the Ontario health care system could collapse if the Ontario government fails to address problems of accessibility and financing created by "poor planning". The task force condemned the Government "for threatening universal accessibility to health care because of the Provincial Government's attempts to transfer its responsibilities to the private sector."

There are 41 recommendations in the report, called "On The Critical List", and it is said it would cost about \$303-million to implement the Liberals' proposals.

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