

MEDICAL REFORM GROUP OF ONTARIO

TORONTO CHAPTER

March 1980.

The major activity of the month is the completion of our brief to the Hall Commission, and some other activities have had to be postponed to accommodate this.

WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS to help with secretarial work, mailings, co-ordinating activities, membership and organization, etc. Our Group depends for its existence on an active working membership, and to date, most of the work has been done by a very small handful of people. PLEASE... if you can spend a small amount of time, volunteer your services at the upcoming regional meeting. Even several hours a month can make a large difference.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TORONTO CHAPTER

ECONOMICS
Working group

Tuesday, March 11
8:00 PM

45 Rose Avenue #2
(Wellesley/Parliament)
Contact: John Frank
536-3781

ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
Working group

Thursday, March 13
7:30 PM

66 Hewitt Avenue
(High Park area)
Contact: Trevor Hancock
278-4308

HEALTH AND
UNDERDEVELOPMENT
Working group

Tuesday, April 8
7:30 PM

Location TBA
Contact: Michael Stogre
766-3091

NEWSLETTER
Working group

Thursday, March 13
8:15 PM

45 Rose Avenue #2
(Wellesley/Parliament)
Contact: John Marshall
921-7087

MRG TORONTO
CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, March 25
7:30 PM

South Riverdale Commu-
nity Health Centre
126 Pape Ave.

HALL COMMISSION
PRESENTATION

Tuesday, April 1
10:30 AM

Inn on the Park
Leslie & Eglinton

PRESENTATION TO THE HALL COMMISSION

For the past few months, the economics working group has focussed its efforts on the drafting of a brief to the Health Services Review '79 Commission, chaired by Justice Emmett Hall. We have been granted a hearing before the Commission on

Tuesday, April 1
10:30 AM

at the Inn on the Park in Toronto (Eglinton & Leslie)

The Hall Commission has begun a series of public hearings across the country, seeking input from interested groups on the problems facing health care delivery in Canada today. When its final report is tabled in late May, it will have a significant influence on government health care policy over the next few decades: the last Hall Commission in the early 1960's laid some of the groundwork for medicare.

The Medical Reform Group's brief will be an amplification of our principles and of our resolutions as passed in October. Copies will be available at the Toronto meeting on March 25, and the content and format for our presentation will be discussed at this time.

MEMBERSHIP

Another appeal to those who have yet to return membership membership forms, and/or pay membership fees...

Public activities such as our presentation to the Hall Commission depend in part for their success on the size of our membership. Those who have not returned a membership form will not be counted as MRG members. So if you haven't sent in your membership form and fee, and if you support the stands the MRG is taking, please demonstrate that support by returning the enclosed form as soon as possible.

And another thank you to those who have already done so, and those who have contributed so generously to the MRG.

TORONTO CHAPTER MEETING

March 25, 1980

The next meeting of the Toronto chapter will be held:

Tuesday, March 25

7:30 PM

South Riverdale Community Health Centre
126 Pape

Two important topics will dominate the meeting:

1. The Hall Commission brief
2. division of work within the Toronto chapter

- Agenda:
1. Minutes of last meeting
 2. Membership and financial reports
 3. Reports from the working groups
 4. Hall Commission presentation
 5. Toronto chapter- organizational and secretarial work
 6. The May 24 general meeting
 7. New business/other business
 8. Film

Unfortunately we have had to postpone the presentation on the Canadian health care system. In its stead, the educational component of the meeting will be a recent film on occupational health.

THE GENERAL MEETING

May 24, 1980

Although the next general meeting is still several months away, we will be planning the agenda in April. Any MRG member or any working group wanting to submit resolutions to the general meeting should contact the Steering Committee soon.

Proposals for content, resolutions, speakers, areas of concern, etc., should be brought to the next Toronto meeting, so that we can begin to prepare for this crucial meeting well in advance.

WORKING GROUPS

Details on the dates and locations of upcoming working group meetings are contained in the calendar of events above.

ECONOMICS

The brief to the Hall Commission has been completed in a first draft. However, there is still much to be done to prepare the final document, and we welcome any assistance with editing, revising, reviewing, and presenting.

Come to the next meeting of the working group, or to the Toronto chapter meeting.

Contact: John Frank 536-3781

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Research into various dimensions of the issue of environmental health has been the focus of this working group. A preliminary paper has been prepared, and there are tentative plans for a presentation to the general meeting. New members are welcome.

Contact: Trevor Hancock 278-4308

HEALTH AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT

Time conflicts have forced the Health and Underdevelopment group to postpone its seminar on health care in Tanzania, Nepal, and Chile. A more modest discussion on health care models in Chile and other undetermined countries is planned for April 8- details in the next mailing. Our focus will be on the health needs of the underdeveloped world, and the implications for doctors.

At the last meeting with the Medical Aid to Nicaragua committee, there was discussion of our participating more actively in the work of MATN, possibly with a view to providing physicians to work in a clinic in Managua. Those who have been involved in the Health and Underdevelopment working group have expressed interest in developing networks to enable their working for varying periods of time in the Third World. Further discussion at the next meeting... new members will be most welcome.

Contact: Michael Stogre 766-3091

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter committee is investigating the feasibility of producing a magazine devoted to the political and social dimensions of health care, which could also function as the national organ of the Medical Reform Group.

The idea seems workable, but ambitious, and we need to involve more members if we are to get it off the ground. Our immediate goal is to draft a detailed proposal for the May meeting.

On the more prosaic side, we are preparing the next issue of the MRG newsletter, to appear late this month.

Anyone interested in getting involved is invited to come to the next meeting on March 13.

Contact: John Marshall 921-7087

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The recent seminar with TOHRC was excellent; the attendance was very disappointing. TOHRC members had put a great deal of work into preparing a stimulating two day program, encouraged by the interest demonstrated at the last Toronto meeting, yet only five people came to the first day, and about ten to the second.

Plans for an ongoing, Toronto-based occupational health working group were discussed, but the group will not meet until after the Hall Commission presentation. Further details in the next mailing.

We recognize that time and other professional commitments mean that many of our members are unable to take an active role in our activities. However, if you are one of those who has been considering becoming involved in any of the various activities of the MRG, we would urge you to do so, and welcome you at any of the upcoming events.