

# MEDICAL REFORM GROUP OF ONTARIO

## TORONTO CHAPTER

APRIL 1980

The major accomplishments of the MRG during March were our presentation of a brief to the Hall Commission on Medicare in Canada and preliminary organization for the General Meeting to be held May 24.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### TORONTO CHAPTER

<u>ECONOMICS</u>	Sunday April 27	72 Sydenham St.
Working Group	2:00 P.M.	Dundas, Ont.
		Contact: John Frank
		536-3781
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL</u>	Tues. April 29	67 Marmaduke
<u>HEALTH</u>	7:30 P.M.	(High Park area)
Working Group		Contact: Trevor Hancock
		278-4308
<u>HEALTH AND</u>	Thurs. April 24	Jesuit Centre
<u>UNDERDEVELOPMENT</u>	7:30 P.M.	947 Queen St. E.
Working Group		Contact: Michael Stogre
		763-4664
<u>MAGAZINE/NEWSLETTER</u>	Thurs. April 17	45 Rose Avenue #2
Working Group	7:30 P.M.	(Wellesley/Parliament)
		Contact: John Marshall
		921-7087
<u>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH</u>	Mon. April 14	27 Springbank Avenue
Working Group	8:00 P.M.	Scarborough
		Contact: Brian Gibson
		698-4068
<u>MRG TORONTO</u>	Tues. April 22	South Riverdale Com-
<u>CHAPTER MEETING</u>	7:30 P.M.	munity Health Centre
		126 Pape Avenue
<u>ORGANIZATION/</u>	TBA	Contact: Michael Rachlis
<u>PUBLICITY</u>		461-2493 (at work)



### PRESENTATION TO THE HALL COMMISSION

On April 1 the Economics Working Group presented a brief to the Health Services Review '79 Commission, chaired by Justice Emmett Hall. The Commission is concerned with the current and future status of Medicare in Canada. We spoke for 45 minutes on such issues as opting-out, the premium system of payment, deterrents to health care for the poor and the elderly, alternative methods of payment to physicians, preventive health care, cutbacks, and more.

Our presentation was low-keyed and it was the general impression of those members who attended that our presentation went quite well.

On subsequent days of the hearings Phil Berger made a plea for Medicare to Mr. Justice Hall and Mike Rachlis presented a brief from the Health Service Organization point of view. We hope that our presentations will have an effect on the Commission.

Copies of the Economics Working Group Brief will be sent out to paid up members with the next newsletter. Copies of the Brief are free to paid up members. Anyone else who is interested in the Brief is welcome to purchase a copy for \$5.00. Some copies will be available at the next Toronto Chapter Meeting.

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### MEMBERSHIP FEES

For those who have been meaning to send in your membership fee, but keep forgetting, please send in your fees. We feel that \$25.00 for membership of doctors is not excessive. We need the money for such things as mailing out copies of the Brief to the Hall Commission and the Newsletter. The fee for medical students is \$15.00 and for non-physicians \$5.00. Remember that only paid-up members will be able to vote in the May 24 General Meeting.

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### GENERAL UPDATE

The Occupational Health Group is getting under way and will be holding a meeting to discuss projects for the group. Anyone interested is most welcome.

The MAGAZINE/NEWSLETTER Group is drafting a proposal for a national magazine devoted to health care issues. If you have any ideas or talents please help.



The Health and Underdevelopment Group will be discussing requests for aid from Central America and the development of resolutions for the May 24 General Meeting.

The Environmental Health Group are compiling a catalog of resources in environmental health and will be putting out a bibliography. At their next meeting they will also be discussing resolutions for the General Meeting.

The Economics Working Group will be discussing resolutions from the Hall Commission Brief and will talk about projects for the future. Anyone with ideas for issues to be dealt with by the MRG is most welcome.

For the bird-minded in the group John Frank is thinking about a bird-watching expedition in Dundas prior to the meeting.

A Steering Committee meeting was held at the end of March. Details of this meeting will be in the Provincial Newsletter which will appear in about two weeks.

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POLICY ON WOMEN. A number of members have expressed an interest in discussing issues related to women in health care and in formulating a policy for the MRG on women. Cynthia Carver has been especially interested and will be bringing up the subject during the next Toronto Chapter meeting Tuesday April 22. Anyone interested should make a special effort to be at that meeting.

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Other issues to be dealt with at the April 22 Toronto Chapter Meeting include reorganization of some of the numerous jobs that need to be done to keep the MRG going. If everyone helps a little then the work is easy. We will also be discussing plans for the May 24 General Meeting. We hope that the general meeting will be highly productive in the further development of policy and future projects for the MRG.

In order that the general meeting go as smoothly as possible it will be necessary to have resolutions submitted prior to the meeting.



Resolutions are welcome from individuals and from working groups and should be submitted to the MRG P.O. Box 366 Station 'J', Toronto, Ontario M4J 4Y8 by May 1.

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Mike Rachlis has offered to call and to chair a meeting concerning Organization and Publicity. At the last Toronto Chapter Meeting we discussed the fact that there are doctors and other people who are in agreement with the principles of the MRG who are unaware of our existence and that we should be doing something about contacting them and getting them involved. Also, we have had a number of requests for speakers and interviews with the press and to date most of this work has fallen on a few members. We hope to get more organized about publicity in the future. Anyone interested should contact Mike Rachlis at work 461-2493.

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Copies of the kit prepared by TOHRC for the Occupational Health Seminar held February 24 and March 2 are now available for \$4.00. Many members were unable to attend the seminars, but can get the kit through the MRG P.O. Box 366, Station 'J', Toronto, Ontario M4J 4Y8.

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Readers of the Star, the Globe and Mail and the Etobicoke Guardian may have seen articles about the MRG after our presentation to the Hall Commission. We are getting to be better known. And, as you can see from the Calendar of Events in the present newsletter, we are becoming more active. If you are interested in becoming more involved come to one of the Working Group meetings or to the Toronto Chapter Meeting. Bring a friend.