

Health Care in Canada: Setting the Record Straight
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Canada's single payer Medicare system has been a model for us in the United States, largely because of its equity and its administrative efficiency. It is the most popular health-care system in the world, and Canadians recently voted former Saskatchewan premier Tommy Douglas, the "father of Medicare," the greatest Canadian of all time.

A far cry from the "socialized medicine" claims made by the right in the United States, health care in Canada is socially insured and privately delivered.

What can we in the U.S. learn from Canada's single payer system? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Canadians get the health care they need, when they need it; despite constant claims about "waiting lines" and "Canadians streaming south for care," the vast majority of Canadians are treated in a timely manner. There are some weaknesses in the system, and some threats to it; but these are not what we hear in the mainstream U.S. media.

This presentation will review Canadian Medicare's history, principles and current status, and provide a brief snapshot of what Americans might learn from our neighbors to the north.