

ROMANOW REMEDIES FIND WIDE SUPPORT

On Friday December 6th 2002 EKOS Research announced the results of a poll conducted for The Toronto Star, the CBC and La Presse to discover how Canadians reacted to the newly published Romanow Report. This was the first extensive sounding of the country's view of the landmark study and 57% of those polled believe the report reflects 'core' values of citizens of this country.

While Roy Romanow's prescription for health care renewal has been given widespread support by Canadians they have little faith their elected representatives will translate his plan into action. From those who were familiar with the report the number in favour of it jumps to 74%.

When asked whether they felt the provincial, federal or territorial governments would 'act decisively' on the report on the future of medicare 19% told EKOS they believed it was likely, 39% said they believed it unlikely, and the remainder found it 'somewhat likely' or didn't know. Premiers have already complained Romanow is not recommending enough money or is calling for an unwarranted intrusion into provincial jurisdiction by demanding funding come with strings attached.

Here are some of the findings of the poll's choices.

To reduce waiting lists and increase access by improving management practices.....? 62%

To increase federal funding to the provinces by \$15 billion..... 57%

To increase the number of doctors..... 56%

To focus on prevention and promotion through healthy living..... 56%

To develop new national home and community care programs with national standards.....49%

To increase the number of responsibilities of nurses..... 47%

To develop a new national Pharmacare program to extend drug coverage to all 46%

To invest more in new technologies like MRIs..... 44%

To change the way doctors and patients relate through user fees to discourage excessive demands on the system..... 43%

Create a charter of patient rights which specifies the rights and responsibilities of all patients?3%

Allow for privatized health care where Canadians could pay extra for better or quicker service.....

