

THE PRESERVATION OF THE LEGACY OF HEALTH CARE IN CANADA

THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM OF HEALTH CARE AT KINGSTON

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD OF

THE MUSEUM OF HEALTH CARE AT KINGSTON



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The Museum of Health Care at Kingston

The primary objective of the Museum is to preserve and inform Canadians about the legacy of health care in Canada. In order to achieve that objective, the Museum aims to be Canada's premier museum devoted exclusively to the story of health care and a centre of excellence for study of its history. The National Advisory Board of the Museum endorses those aims.

Why is the legacy of health care important?

Canadians must become more knowledgeable if they are to make informed decisions about their personal health and health care policies for our society. As citizens, they must understand the history of health care and the consequences for tomorrow of decisions made today.

"History gives perspective to the present and insight into the future."

History helps us understand the social attitudes and beliefs that have influenced health and health care through the ages. It provides the foundation necessary to understand modern prevention and treatment of illness and political influences on health care policy. Such awareness is critical at this time of intense government review of the funding and organization of health care in Canada.

Preservation of our Legacy

Valuable lessons will be lost unless the history of health care is preserved for the benefit of all Canadians. What is needed is a resource such as the Museum of Health Care which, through its collection, research and website is able to enhance professional and public understanding of the history of health care and its place in society.

We endorse the role of the Museum of Health Care. It celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011. The Museum collection numbers 35,000 artifacts, the largest in Canada, with representation from all health care disciplines. The Museum's mission of public education is pursued with exhibitions and programs in the Museum, in the region and on the Internet.

Recommendation

"In order for the objectives of the Museum to be achieved, the Museum needs the endorsement of health care disciplines that believe the preservation of our legacy is worthwhile. Such approval by health care providers is critical when seeking support from government and the public. For that reason, we urge all health care disciplines to become Sustaining Patrons of the Museum."

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