"Emerging Solutions" – Quebec's Clair Commission, An Overview

January 29, 2001 – "Too timid" for some, to others, "a Trojan horse for private health care", the report of Quebec's Clair Commission, released ten days ago, walks a tightrope through the health care debate.

Quebec's Minister of Health, Pauline Marois, created The Commission of Study for Health and Social Services in June 2000. She appointed Michel Clair, a former Parti Quebecois cabinet minister to head up the inquiry. The commission's mandate: to study the financing and organization of health care and social services and to recommend ways to protect, adapt and improve the system.

The commission's public hearings drew submissions from thousands of individuals, hundreds of organizations and a number of international experts. Its 400-page report makes recommendations in four key areas; the reorganization of primary care; the definition of publicly insured medically necessary services; the long-term care of the elderly; and the role of the private sector in a public health care system under financial stress.

Whatever its critics say, few would deny that it represents a significant contribution to the debate over the future of public health care in Quebec and in the rest of the country.

CPRN asked Antonia Maioni, who teaches political science at McGill University, to prepare an overview and assessment of the Clair Commission report. You can read what she has to say by clicking on **Research Report** under the heading **Associated Documents**.

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