

## Health Care Wait Times: Reasons for Hope

**Friday, September 9, 2005** – The recent Supreme Court ruling in the *Chaouilli* case has made the already hot issue of health care wait times even hotter.

The Court's finding that Quebec's ban on private insurance for services covered under medicare contravenes the province's Charter of Rights has been much analyzed. But the Court's observations on wait times leave the impression that little has been accomplished. Nothing could be further from the truth. This emphasis on the negative does a disservice to the real progress that is being made across the country.

In a recent commentary, Tom McIntosh, Director of CPRN's Health Network, reviews the Court's decision and the evidence of significant progress in addressing the issue of wait times. He is concerned that the effect of the Court's ruling will be to encourage those who see the creation of a parallel private system as a cure-all for the ills of the present system – what he calls a “Big Bang” solution.

McIntosh welcomes the Court's recent moratorium on the implementation of its ruling. He argues that this provides governments an opportunity to build on the many examples of local innovation in coping with wait times in every jurisdiction. Communicating the results of such successful experiments, he says, will help deflate the pressure for an inappropriate “Big Bang” response.

To access or download a copy of his commentary, ***No Big Bang, But Wait Times Are Improving***, [click here](#).

### **The Canadian Conference on Dialogue and Deliberation (C2D2)**

The 2005 C2D2 conference takes place in Ottawa, October 27-30, and CPRN will be there.

Visit the C2D2 Web site at [www.c2d2.ca](http://www.c2d2.ca) to find out all you need to know about this major national opportunity to share experience and learn from others involved in dialogue and deliberation initiatives. Take part in one or more of the conference's 40 breakout sessions on a wide range of topics – details on the conference Web site, [www.c2d2.ca](http://www.c2d2.ca).

See you there!

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