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“Mailbag”

The fascination with the changing landscape of Canadian health care and its privatization continues with your informative guide (“Complete user’s guide to private medical care in Canada,” Cover, May 1). The increasing private offering of health services and the changing definition of what is medically necessary (and affordable from a public policy perspective) have created an environment of uncertainty for both public and private providers. For the first time, we are seeing the acknowledgement of the public purse’s inability to pay for services many would consider necessary. Governments and particularly those formulating public policy must create an atmosphere of co-operation in which the private sector can contribute in the most complementary ways to a strong public system of health care delivery. Constructive dialogue without labels is essential to offer the most universal and accessible care tempered by the constraints of fiscal realities.

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