



Debate increases belief that one would rather get sick in Canada than the United States.

After a winter of intense debate in the U.S. over President Obama's drive to reform healthcare, the differences between the American and Canadian healthcare system have been studied, debated and defended. The Munk Debates tackled one of big public policy differences between the two neighbours: whose system is better for the patient?

Do ballooning healthcare spending, evermore expensive prescription drugs and an increased use of private medicine foreshadow the wholesale reform of Canada's universal, single-payer system? Or, are the divisive debates, social inequities, and sky-high expenditures associated with the U.S. experience with private medicine a validation of Canada's universal Medicare system?

The Munk Debates posed the following question:

BE IT RESOLVED:

I would rather get sick in the U.S. than Canada

This question was put directly to the audience of the *Munk Debates: The Great Healthcare Debate* both before and after they listened to a debate on the issue between nationally recognized heart and lung transplant surgeon and former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Dr. William Frist and best selling health policy author and a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute Dr. David Gratzner, both arguing in favour of the statement AND former DNC Chairman and six term Governor of Vermont Dr. Howard Dean and the President and CEO of University Health Network (UHN) and an internationally recognized Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Robert Bell, both arguing against the statement.

At the beginning of the debate, 23% agreed with the statement, while seven-in-ten (70%) disagreed. After the debate, disagreement with this statement rose to 77%. It appears few people were willing to change their minds but that the undecided moved overwhelmingly to the opposed.



About This Study

This poll was conducted for the **Munk Debates** (www.munkdebates.com) by **Innovative Research Group, Inc.** (www.innovativeresearch.ca), a national public opinion research firm on Monday, June 7th, 2010.

Prior to the beginning of the debate, members of the audience at the *Munk Debates: The Great Healthcare Debate* were asked to fill out a ballot where they indicated whether they agreed or disagreed with the resolution. Ballots were collected and the results recorded using Scantron readers.

After the debate concluded, the audience was again asked to fill out a ballot where they indicated whether they still agreed or disagreed with the resolution. Again, the ballots were collected and results recorded using Scantron readers. See detailed findings below for the ballot question wording and results.

The results of this poll are based on ballots collected among spectators at the *Munk Debates: The Great Healthcare Debate*. For the pre-debate ballot, 680 responses were received for the first question, and 648 for the second. For the post-debate ballot, 813 responses were received.

The Munk Debates

The Munk Debates is an initiative of the Aurea Foundation, a charitable organization founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian Institutions involved in the study and development of public policy. The goal of the Munk Debates is to enliven and elevate public discussion of the major international issues shaping the course of world events and Canada's future.

Innovative Research Group

Innovative Research Group Inc. (INNOVATIVE) is a national public opinion research and strategy firm with offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

INNOVATIVE provide critical information needed to assess and overcome public affairs and corporate communications challenges, identify and evaluate potential solutions, and monitor outcomes.

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DETAILED FINDINGS

Pre-Debate Ballot

QUESTION #1

I would rather get sick in the U.S. than Canada.

AGREE - 23%

DISAGREE - 70%

UNDECIDED – 7%

QUESTION #2

Depending on what you hear during the debate are you open to changing your vote?

YES - 79%

NO - 21%

Post-Debate Ballot

QUESTION #1

I would rather get sick in the U.S. than Canada.

AGREE - 23%

DISAGREE - 77%