

INTRODUCTION- STRATAVERA WHITE PAPER SERIES: HOPE FOR HEALTH CARE

Our current health care system is in trouble. There have been endless strings of policy reports about what needs to be done but improvements to the system have been slow to materialize. Partisan agendas and conflicting information make it difficult to know who or what to believe. Stratavera's White Paper Series: Hope for Health Care aims to engage Canadians in a conversation about health care and help shift the focus from discussing problems onto finding productive solutions and taking action. Each of our White Papers will be easy to read, well supported and end with *5 Things Every Canadian Can Do To Improve Our Health Care System*.

Who is Stratavera and Why Should I Care What They Have to Say?

Stratavera is a Calgary, Alberta based health care consulting practice with extensive experience in public policy development and health care delivery. Our experiences working in health care tell us that many change efforts are based on the belief that if we could just organize the current system more efficiently our problems would be solved. This series of White Papers builds on our view that effective long term solutions will require a fundamental shift in how Canadians approach health care.

The cynic in some of you may be wondering why a company would use their resources to try and "shift the health care discussion". There are several answers to this question. First, we believe building a health care system that will meet people's needs, and that our children and grandchildren can afford, is one of the biggest challenges facing the developed world. Second, through our work in the system we see problems but also possibilities. Finally, we fundamentally believe that an informed and engaged public is essential to creating the kind of collective action necessary to support long term change.

Our belief is that too many of the reports concerning health care try to explain the issues in a one page brief or a thirty second sound bite. As a consequence, people are lead to believe that improving the health care system might be simple. The problems and solutions are actually quite complex. This series will be conversational in tone; you should be able to read a paper in the time it takes to drink your morning coffee. The information will be interesting, engaging, informing, and occasionally controversial.

The first paper entitled [Shifting Our Thinking](#) will take some recent newspaper headlines about specific problems in health care and provide a different point of view for dealing with these problems. The next two papers in the series will focus on describing underlying problems with Canada's current health care system. The remaining papers in the series will concentrate on providing more details about possible solutions. Our hope is that the information will lead to many conversations about what can be done and that these conversations will build a commitment to action. So please read on!