Readers' Corner

Letters

The Milton Concert Band performs for audience members during the group's open rehearsal at Milton Baptist Church February 2.
Photo courtesy of William Donald

Sweet sound of success

Dear Editor,

I am pleased to report the Open Rehearsal hosted by the Milton Concert Band was a great success.

Mayor Krantz was there and had many kind words about the evolution of the Milton Concert Band from start up to our 10-year anniversary.

We had a good turn out of audience and guest musicians from Milton and the surrounding area. We were glad to see new faces in many sections and welcome back some past members.

The energy in the room was exciting with many expressing interest in joining the band.

Mayor Krantz even pitched in as a guest conductor helping 12 guest musicians and current band members through *Old Black Magic*.

The Milton Concert Band is preparing for its Spring Concert on April 22, A Touch of Music Magic. The program will include magical numbers from *The Wizard of Oz, Harry Potter,* works by animation company Pixar and more.

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks, or visit online and join the band's mailing list at www.miltonconcertband.com.

John Martin, President
Milton Concert Band

Healthy if you're wealthy

Why Canada should maintain its universal health-care system

By Birra Ahmed
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Dear Editor,

There are many benefits that come along with living in a highly-developed country such as Canada.

High emphasis on education, a free press, a safe atmosphere and accessibility to health care have significantly developed the Canadian culture.

These attributes have shown other societies around the world what it means to live in a liberal society, with the best facilities available to all its citizens through, not only an equal manner but with equity as well.

While the Canadian government strives to invest its resources for the well-being of its citizens, there's been some buzz around the idea of privatizing our universal health-care system in an attempt to improve efficiency.

Today's health-care system is focused on those who need assistance rather than those who can afford it. But if unequal treatment is not a strong enough argument to alter the public's opinion on the potential damages of reforming our health-care system into a two-tier system, then here are some arguments to consider.

Although true that our health-care system is far from perfect, it still functions with great results, ranking 30th around the globe, according to the World Health Organization.

Should Canadians wish to introduce a private sector, all resources — human and natural — will undoubtedly be divided. This would deteriorate the standard of service with care becoming highly unproductive. With that in place, those accessing public health-care services would experience even greater inefficient services in comparison to those with the financial means to purchase care.

Canadians should take pride in our low infant mortality rate and long life expectancy. However, the privatization of health care in Canada could drive well-intentioned individuals to take drastic steps in order to insure for the improved health of their loved ones.

Among the many urging to privatize health care is Dr. Brian Day of Vancouver, who argues that "Canada's inefficient system is the product of a wasteful bureaucracy, a lack of competition and a misguided attachment to universal coverage."

Day believes it is an individual's right to obtain better services if they have the means.

On the other hand, government spokeswoman Rebecca Gilman stated, "Canadians overwhelmingly support universally-accessible health care."

As of 2016, it is said that a majority of Canadians are still supportive of the current system with the belief that access to health care for all is a fundamental aspect of Canadian culture. To take this away would strip us from our Canadian identity of being a citizenry that genuinely cares for others.

Our universal health-care system is not perfect, with many delays, wait-periods for surgeries and specialist appointments, among other issues. While the challenges affecting the system are valid, we question how providing faster access to care through privately-funded means will help the country in the long run.

Canada currently has one of the highest life expectancy of about 80 years and this is due, in part, to an honest and mostly reliable level of care — for all.

It would be inequitable to create a system that caters only to those who are able to pay for their health-care needs. It could lead to the creation of an industry that treats people as commodities and overall devalue the care and service for each patient.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "It is health that is real wealth, not pieces of gold and silver."

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Birra Ahmed, of Milton, is an 18-year-old McMaster University student. She was tasked with penning an opinion piece for publication for a first-year communications course.

Letters welcome: *The Champion welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no more than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed with first and last name for publication, and the address and the telephone number of the writer included for verification purposes only. Email yours to editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com or send by mail to 555 Industrial Dr., Milton, Ont., L9T 5E1.*

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