

Doctor angry with health care system; says it's unfair

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Dunn was angry with the health care system and believes it has been flawed from the time it was developed in the 1960s.

"By the 1980s people and doctors became too demanding of the system and it funded things that never should have been funded" because of unrealistic expectations.

"It gave doctors unlimited access to public funds and patients unlimited access to doctors," he said. The system then began to "abuse medicine."

Dunn's income was dramatically reduced because a deal between the

Ontario Medical Association (which represents doctors) and the government over a year ago. Doctors without offices, like Dunn, are paid half of what doctors with offices are paid for house calls. The argument used is that doctors who don't have offices have less overhead, but Dunn disagrees.

"The system is unfair. It should be equal pay for equal work," he said. He can see only one patient an hour when making house calls, while a doctor in an office can see six patients an hour.

"It's so difficult for me because my practice was small. Sometimes I'd have to wait 10 or 15 minutes for an

older person to get to the door," he said. "There were several months my billings were \$600 to \$800 for the month. One month I got nothing." He was wondering if he could keep his car on the road, and when he contacted OHIP to talk about the problem, they denied responsibility, he said.

Dunn hopes his actions won't result in more policing of the system. His intention, he said, was to get people talking about it.

"What I was hoping for was that we all know that things have to be brought under control and we're all willing to be part of that, but we don't

have to be brutal about it. We don't have to employ bullies and thugs to bring it about," he said.

However, two Georgetown doctors Dr. Don Trant and Dr. Clay Li who don't know Dunn personally, say his actions are bizarre.

"It detracts from the ethics and philosophy that most physicians have," Trant said. "They have the best interests of the patients in mind and bill fairly. I'm not sure what he was trying to prove."

As well, Ministry of Health spokesperson Paul Kilbertus said the ministry is not pleased with Dunn's actions.

"There's a need for greater accountability in our health care system and the government has included some of these changes in Bill 26," he said. The bill would allow a new committee of doctors to be set up to advise on billings, he said.

"Currently any bill which is filled out correctly and is technically correct, we have to pay," he said. Staff at the Ministry of Health will be in touch with Dunn to get back the money. The Ministry won't take any action against Dunn, since this falls under the responsibility of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which regulates doctors.

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