



# COMMENT

## We're still waiting

It has been more than a week since Roy Romanow issued his 47-point prescription for what ails Canada's health-care system.

We were hoping that over the past week we would get an indication that Canadians got their money's worth for Romanow's \$15-million effort. We're still waiting.

While Romanow's report contains some good recommendations that recognize the need for additional medicare programs, his primary message — that the federal government needs to increase its health-care spending and stop shortchanging the provinces — is a no-brainer.

Romanow would like to see Ottawa fund 25 per cent of the system and inject \$15 billion of additional money into health care by 2006. If followed to the letter, his report would see the feds spend \$50-billion more than currently forecast between 2006-10.

While Prime Minister Jean Chretien has promised the feds will "move quickly" on Romanow's recommendations, don't believe it for a minute. Ottawa and the provinces haven't even been able to agree on how much the federal government funds the system. Romanow estimates it's 18.7 per cent, the provinces think it's 14 per cent and Ottawa says it's 40 per cent.

The decades-long battle over cash will likely continue while the lines in doctor waiting rooms, clinics and hospitals only get longer.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Reader says traffic pollution at J.M. Denyes is a big problem and is hurting its students

Dear Editor:

I read with interest about the asthma study being carried out at J.M. Denyes School.

I frequently walk past this school when many of the students are being dropped off by parents and school buses, and the exhaust from idling vehicles is enough to make it difficult to breathe.

The problem isn't unique to this school as more and more children everywhere are bused in or are driven to school. Having an idle-free zone around the school would eliminate at least one irri-

tant for those children with asthma and make it healthier for everyone and the environment.

I urge those with responsibility for children's health to take measures to correct this problem.

The following Web sites have excellent information and recommendations: [www.123turnyourkey.com](http://www.123turnyourkey.com) (Mississauga-based program), [www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/autosmart/idling](http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/autosmart/idling) and [www.prairie.sierraclub.ca/idling](http://www.prairie.sierraclub.ca/idling)

Jane Copeland  
Milton

### Halton's Biosolid Storage Facility not in best interest of community or environment: reader

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter to publicly commend regional councillors Allan Elgar and Kevin Flynn for the positions they took at the council meeting November 20.

I'm a resident of Halton whose family and community has been negatively impacted by the operation of the W.A. Bill Johnston Biosolid Storage Facility (BMC) for many years. I addressed regional council regarding an alkaline stabilization process being proposed to be situated on this site.

I understand the Region's aim to diversify their already in trouble, biosolid waste program. However, I believe such a facility isn't in the best interest of the residents and environment of Halton.

The BMC is located on the west bank of the Sixteen Mile Creek and the Trafalgar Moraine, visibly seen to the north-west from the Hwy. 407 bridge as you cross Sixteen

Mile Creek.

The existing facility isn't appropriate land use in such an environmentally-sensitive area.

Our elected officials are obligated to make decisions in the best interest of its residents and community. This process can only be completed successful when all the information available has been presented.

It was Mr. Elgar and Mr. Flynn's position that all the information hadn't been presented, and therefore they couldn't act or make decisions in the best interest of their residents and community.

I don't believe the other councillors were any more informed, but I feel they were unwilling to act responsibly.

It has been my experience, and also the Region's response, that through miscommunication (or lack of) mistakes have been made. It's only through information shared that informed decisions can be

made.

Mr. Elgar and Mr. Flynn expressed that more information was needed. I hope they, as our public officials, continue to pursue the information available for those who want to be informed.

I would also ask anyone who lives within 10 km of this site to contact your regional councillor or myself.

All the information needs to be shared with residents, people concerned with our environment, developers who propose development within this area, Halton Conservation Authority and the medical community. Mr. Elgar and Mr. Flynn acted responsibly, and I thank them for it.

Only through community participation and involvement can our quality of life, health and the environment be protected.

Laurie Eagles  
Burnamthorpe Road



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### Pud

