

**Letter to the Editor, Globe and Mail – November 13, 2007 in response to “Searching for sound advice online (Nov. 13)”**

We are delighted that the Canadian Health Network (CHN) was listed as one of the “best resources” for health information online. Ironically this recommendation comes just as CHN Affiliates are learning that the network is slated for closure by the Harper Government. The loss of this non-commercial bilingual Canadian source health information is significant and disturbing.

CHN is a national, bilingual web-portal built by a unique collaboration between the Public Health Agency of Canada, 26 major health organizations, universities, hospitals, and libraries. CHN offers links to more than 20,000 English and French, Canadian, web-based, quality-assessed resources. It provides in-depth information on 25 key health topics and population groups.

CHN is used currently by approximately 381,000 people per month – an increase of 70 per cent this past year alone. Forty per cent of CHN visitors are health professionals who use the resources both personally and with clients; Francophone users visit CHN in higher proportions than comparable sites; and 94 per cent of all users recommend the site to others.

CHN costs are decreasing making the portal more cost efficient over-time. Why then would this program be cut exactly when the Federal Government is experiencing a surplus?

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