

**Tommy Douglas and Medicare in Canada Questions**

**Use the “Tommy Douglas (The Canadian Encyclopedia)” handout to answer these questions**

1. Who was Tommy Douglas? Where and when was he born? Why is he significant in Canadian history?

2. How did the economic depression of the 1930s and Douglas’ academic studies in Christian ethics influence his political beliefs?

3. Describe Douglas’ early political career.

4. In 1944, Douglas resigned his federal seat and successfully ran to become premier of the province of Saskatchewan. What was the most significant innovation during his seventeen years as premier?

5. How did the federal government react after Saskatchewan’s Hospital Services Plan came into effect?

6. Douglas played a lead role in creating the legislation that passed in 1961 establishing a comprehensive health insurance plan in Saskatchewan. How did the Canadian federal government respond in 1966?

7. Although Douglas did not realize his dream of a socialist Canada, what do you think his legacy is?

**Use “Saskatchewan Doctors’ Strike (The Canadian Encyclopedia)” handout to answer these questions**

8. The Saskatchewan election of 1960 was fought on what issue?

9. Why did members of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons oppose this plan?

10. What were Keep Our Doctors Committees?

11. How did most doctors protest when the Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act came into effect?

12. The following argument appeared in a Globe and Mail newspaper: “The doctors of Saskatchewan have taken an action which is not open to any individual within a democracy. They have deliberately decided to disobey a law of that province... none has the right to set himself above the law. That way can only lie anarchy, and the destruction of our democratic way of life.” Do you agree with this opinion?

13. What steps were taken to try to resolve the emergency of the shortage of doctors in Saskatchewan?

14. Who was Lord Taylor? How did he help to bring an end to the Saskatchewan Doctors’ Strike?

**Use the “Health Policy (The Canadian Encyclopedia)” handout to answer these questions**

15. What is the purpose of medicare? In Canada, how are the costs of peoples’ health-insurance paid?

16. Medicare developed in two stages. In 1957, the federal government passed the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Act. Nine years later, in 1966, the Medical Care Act was passed as well. What were the results of these acts?

17. Why was it difficult in 1962 for Douglas’ Sask. government to introduce medical-services insurance?

18. Responsibility for health under the Constitution falls under provincial jurisdiction. Thus, there are variations in the plan from province to province. Identify a few of these differences between provinces.

19. What are some of the arguments against medicare? Can you think of any others?

20. What arguments can you think of for medicare?

21. Medicare is underfunded, the Canadian Medical Association claims. What are consequences of this?