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BC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION LINES UP BEHIND TWO-TIER ADVOCATE - A DISCREDIT TO THE PROFESSION

The Medical Reform Group is deeply troubled by the actions of the BCMA in its support of privatization advocate and President-elect Brian Day, and its request that Dr. Jack Burak reverse his decision to challenge Dr. Day for the Presidency.

In a multi-candidate election to select the British Columbia Medical Association's designate for CMA President, Day won more votes than any other candidate. However, less than one-third of B.C.'s doctors cast a ballot, and only one-quarter of the voters selected Dr. Day.

"The process of Dr. Day's selection leaves no credibility to the claim that his views represent those of the majority of Canadian physicians," said MRG spokesperson Dr. Gordon Guyatt. "Dr. Day is an extremist who takes a position that is anathema to most Canadians: a move toward two-tier medicine where the rich pay for quicker and better care, and ordinary Canadians move to the end of the line."

The BCMA has not only asked Dr. Burak to withdraw his challenge, but also committed resources to Dr. Day in support of his candidacy.

"Canadian doctors should be welcoming Dr. Burak's challenge," said another MRG spokesperson, Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi. "Dr. Burak's support of the fundamental principles are, in contrast to Dr. Day's, in keeping with the best interests of the Canadian public."

"The BCMA just doesn't get it," Dr. Guyatt concluded. "Having a President who takes such an anti-evidence, anti-people position will be disastrous for the medical profession. At the very least, the profession deserves an alternative choice."

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