What’s Canadian About Medicare? A Comparative Perspective on Health Policy

Dinner & Justice Emmett Hall Laureate Keynote

Thursday, May 25, 2017 (6:30pm to 9:00pm)

Toronto Ballroom

Canada’s sector-based approach to public coverage of health care, and its single-payer model for physician and hospital services, are unique among advanced nations. In addition, these features of the Canadian system have persisted relatively unchanged, while other national systems including those of the USA and Britain, have gone through one or more episodes of major reform since their founding. How do we explain this Canadian ‘exceptionalism,’ and what does it bode for the future?

Carolyn Tuohy is a Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Senior Fellow in the School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto. She holds a B.A. from the University of Toronto, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University. Her area of research and teaching interest is comparative public policy, with an emphasis on social policy. Her most recent book is the forthcoming Remaking Policy: Scale, Pace and Political Strategy in Health Care Reform (University of Toronto Press, forthcoming). Her earlier publications include Accidental Logics: the Dynamics of Change in the Health Care Arena in the United States, Britain and Canada (Oxford University Press 1999) and Policy and Politics in Canada: Institutionalized Ambivalence (Temple University Press 1992), a treatment of Canadian public policy in comparative perspective, as well as three co-edited books. In addition, she is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters in the areas of health and social policy, professional regulation, and comparative approaches in public policy, and is frequently consulted by government and related agencies on public policy matters. From 1992-2005 she served in a number of roles in the senior administration of the University of Toronto, including Deputy Provost and Vice-President, Government and Institutional Relations. She has served as a member of the Boards of Directors of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Work and Health and the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, and is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for ICES. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a Senior Fellow at Massey College.

Maria Mathews is a Professor of Health Policy/Health Care Delivery in the Division of Community Health & Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University. She holds a PhD in Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation from the University of Toronto and a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Alberta. She is currently the President of the Justice Emmett Hall Memorial Foundation.