

June 17, 2008

Don Mills Seniors Appeal for Preservation of Medical Services

The Letter to the Editor found at this link <http://insidetoronto.com/news/letters/article/49736> and copied below was written by a Don Mills resident to the editor of the North York Mirror. Interestingly, on June 11th, the Toronto Star ran an [article](#) discussing the results of a 2007 National Physician Survey, which showed that our aging population and chronic illness are stressing our already failing health system.

In the article, Dr. Louise Samson, president of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, is quoted as saying: "Canada needs a co-ordinated, pan-Canadian approach to educate, train, recruit and retain a sufficient number of physicians to meet the needs of an aging population with multiple health problems." This is exactly the point made by the author of the letter to the editor. In Don Mills, the Medical Building at 75 The Donway West currently meets this need, but Cadillac Fairview's redevelopment plans threaten the disintegration of the medical and laboratory services offered in the building. These plans stand in direct opposition to the health care goals outlined by Dr. Samson. It is time that governments at all levels work together to ensure that such an atrocity is not allowed to happen.

Inside Toronto (North York Mirror), Letter to the Editor:

Don Mills seniors appeal for preservation of medical services

June 9, 2008 02:55 PM

I read in the last Don Mills Residents Inc. newsletter that 75 The Donway West was not designed as a medical building.

Yes, indeed, as we all know, it was not designed as such, but at the present time it has become a medical building, serving the community with more than 16,000 patients distributed among family physicians, dentists, laboratory, x-ray, and many other medical departments.

It is again important to point out to Cadillac Fairview that most of the patients are seniors. It is relatively easy for seniors to navigate from one floor to another at 75 The Donway West, with all services under one roof, enabling seniors to take care of all their health needs. If the concentration of these medical services is dissolved, it will be a difficult struggle to obtain adequate health care.

Let us not forget that it was the vision of Tommy Douglas from Saskatchewan that created OHIP for this country, and we Canadians hold him in high regard. I bring Tommy Douglas into the picture because, if he was able to achieve the enormous task of making medical care universally available for all Canadians, then Cadillac Fairview should do its part to make a small sacrifice and maintain the medical facilities at 75 The Donway West for our aging Don Mills population that has great need for this amenity.

The Don Mills residents are anxious about the outcome of this situation, when doctors will be venturing out to find office locations elsewhere. The effects for us will be disastrous.

I know that Cadillac Fairview is successful in its entrepreneurial achievement, both here and abroad. Therefore, Don Millers are approaching Cadillac Fairview with the request to understand what we seniors will go through once our medical services disappear. Don Millers want to be friends with Cadillac. Let Cadillac remember Tommy Douglas' vision when he created OHIP, and let Cadillac do its very best for 75 The Donway West, our Medical Building.

Mary Ampagoumian
