Mark your calendars; July 18th National Day of Action for a 2014 Health Accord!

In December 2011, the federal government announced that it would cut $31 billion from public health care by 2024 effectively downloading much of the responsibility for health care onto the provinces and territories. After that announcement, the federal government walked away from the 2014 Health Accord negotiating table.

Without a 2014 Health Accord, it is unlikely that we will be able to protect, strengthen, and extend public health care.

Canadians need to act now to protect public health care by demanding that Harper return to the negotiating table. Otherwise, it will be every province for itself and many of us simply can't afford it.

Wednesday July 18, 12:00 pm – Riverdale Park East, Toronto

Come participate in the National Day of Action!
Please participate by joining us across from the Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church (corner of Bain and Broadview Ave) at 11:45 am to partake in a human formation – we will be forming a giant red umbrella for Medicare (we're covered)

July 18th is one week before the premiers of every province and territory will meet to discuss what their next step will be for the 2014 Health Accord. We need to send the premiers to this meeting with a strong mandate from their constituents to protect public health care by standing up against cuts.

The Ontario Health Coalition, The Council of Canadians and Canadian Doctors for Medicare are joining forces with other provincial coalitions across Canada to encourage the premiers to call Harper back to the 2014 negotiating table.

How you can be involved outside of Toronto

Several actions are being planned on the 18th and we encourage you to create one that would work in your area or, create one from the examples below:

- Create a visual action using **red umbrellas** and invite media for photos. This is an analogy to being covered (check out this video for background information: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztY38GJPI4w)
- Meet with your Premier, health minister, or MPP/MLA. Ask them to commit to strengthening and protecting public health care by signing a red umbrella. Invite the media to the events. Perhaps you could auction off the umbrella as a fundraiser for a community health clinic.

- Using the red umbrellas hold an exercise or dance flash mob, you can do this, right?! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4CqTV9eEkI&feature=results_main&playnext=1&list=PLF90151842255B809
- Be creative! Or call us for more ideas.

We'll keep you informed of who else has joined on these actions, but also think about contacting your local community health centre or other health activist groups in your area.

Don't forget to take photos and send them to us so that we can post it on our website and show that we're working together and creating opposition from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

We encourage people to get creative! Please join us in this effort!

Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition & Adrienne Silnicki, Health Care Campaigner, Council of Canadians