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**“A Tortuous History:
Federal-Provincial Relations and the Future of Medicare,” 2004.**

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ABSTRACT

By examining the historical development of Canada's health insurance program this thesis demonstrates that the federal government played a significant role in establishing a national policy. Consequently, the federal government is obligated to promote, direct and contribute reasonable levels of funding to ensure the maintenance and stability of the program. However, through a series of negotiations and directives throughout the 1980s and 1990s the federal government has reneged on its financial contributions. In recent years the provinces have correctly asserted that federal financial commitments have dwindled and undermined the sustainability of our national health care program. This thesis examines how these funding cuts have been achieved as well as public and provincial reactions to shifting funding responsibilities and the overall effect on the health care system.