

**Response to Invitation sent to Ed Holder to attend All
Candidates Meeting**

**Sent by Jim Etherington, Ed Holder's Campaign
Communications Manager**

I received your material about your plan for a candidates debate. I'm a little puzzled why the participants would be federal candidates. I'd think this is more an issue for Deb Matthews and the provincial candidates with the province having lead responsibilities on health care. Yes, health care is a total concern and there is a need for allocation of federal tax dollars to support the provincial programs, but it's really a delivery issue with the provinces.

I'm well aware that Canadians are concerned about healthcare, as reflected in interest polls, but asking federal candidates to debate is not very effective, in our view. I guess I would say that Ed Holder is supportive of a priority for spending on health care but that's probably the sum and substance of what he would be able to say in a debate.

I guess what I'm saying is we're not attracted to see Ed debate on healthcare when it is more an issue for the provincial election with provincial candidates.