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“TORT REFORM CONFERENCE”

*Proceedings
of the
Tort Reform
Conference*

Toronto, Ontario, November 5, 1998

The Canadian Medical Protective Association sponsored and presented this Tort Reform Conference in order to stimulate improvements of the present tort-based compensation system so as to ensure that patients will continue to be provided all of the compensation found to be their due, but at lower cost to society as a whole.

Especially in high risk areas of medical practice such as obstetrics, neurosurgery and orthopaedic surgery, the cost of court awards and settlements is the principal determinant of the cost of medical malpractice protection for the physicians involved. Unfortunately, escalation in the cost of malpractice protection is leading some physicians to alter their practice, or leave practice altogether.

Tort reform needs to be addressed by governments and the medical profession, with the assistance and co-operation of involved segments of the legal profession.

We encourage you to review the material contained in this document. It offers a clear and detailed description of the rationale for tort reform in the medico-legal context, identifying the areas in which improvements are possible with help from legislators and physicians.

We invite you to become an advocate for the type of reform that will ensure that health dollars are spent in the best way possible to benefit all Canadians.