

CHIROPRACTIC ROUND-UP continued from page 16

tion were announced on May 17th. The GCC is a statutory body in the UK established by the Chiropractors Act of 1994 with responsibility for setting standards for chiropractic practice, conduct and education, protection of the public through regulations similar to other health care professions and "to promote the profession of chiropractic so that its contribution to the health of the nation is understood and recognized."¹

Chiropractors throughout the four jurisdictions turned out in large numbers with 80 percent of the 1103 chiropractors polled returning valid ballots, yielding a clear and definitive statement on the previous five years of GCC policy.

The GCC is comprised of 10 chiropractic members elected by fully registered chiropractors, 6 lay members appointed by the Privy Council, 3 members appointed by the Education Committee and 1 member appointed by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

The new Council represents a discernable turn in philosophical direction with the majority of newly elected members appearing to support a more conservative orientation, leaning away from the medically-oriented musculoskeletal definition of chiropractic to a more traditional subluxation-based orientation.

The chiropractors elected are: Madeleine Brzeski, DC; David Byfield, DC; Michael Copland-Griffiths, DC; Peter Dixon, DC; Matthew Flannagan, DC; Dana Green, DC; Kevin Grant, DC; Carla How, DC; Kevin Proudman, DC and Stephen Williams, DC.

The shift in direction was especially characterized by the defeat of several sitting GCC Members including Anthony Metcalfe, DC, former President of the British Chiropractic Association and Second Vice President of the World Federation of Chiropractic.

ICA congratulates the winners of this democratic process and has offered any assistance and support that the GCC might ever request as they work to build a strong chiropractic profession in the United Kingdom.

CANADA

Manitoba chiropractors deal with discriminatory policies, need worldwide support

The chiropractors in Manitoba are facing another challenge. The government recently announced a proposal to restrict access to chiropractic services by denying payment for persons 18 years of age or younger. This policy is supposed to go into effect in that province on July 1, 2002.

"There can be no doubt that Manitoba is currently the most embattled chiropractic community in the world," said newly elected ICA Board Member Dr. Daniel Schaeffer from Winnipeg, Manitoba. "The government has embarked on a course of policy that has global implications and has struck at the basic credibility and viability of chiropractic in Manitoba. By declaring chiropractic "unsafe" for persons under the age of 19, they have injured chiropractic's perceptions in all of Canada, and be assured that this policy

step, even if it is rescinded in the coming weeks, has done terrible damage to the future prospects of chiropractic throughout Canada."

The media has been the scene of many of the battles being fought by the Canadian chiropractic community. Fueled by a high-visibility inquest into the death of a former chiropractic patient, anti-chiropractic spokespeople have maintained a steady barrage of misinformation aimed at frightening consumers and policy-makers away from chiropractic utilization.

ICA has assured the representatives of the Canadian organizations of ICA's complete support for their efforts to defend chiropractic with dignity and accuracy. "ICA believes that in the months ahead the legal proceedings will come to a conclusion which will fully exonerate chiropractic and validate the appropriateness and safety of chiropractic care for persons of all ages," said Dr. Humber. "Canadian chiropractors

will then have new opportunities to communicate with the public about the unique and clinically effective aspects of chiropractic in a new public education campaign. ICA wants to help and so do DCs from around the world."

Doctors of chiropractic from around the world, ICA members and non-members, hearing of the situation in Manitoba extended offers of support for the chiropractic community in Canada. In response to these offers, at a special meeting on May 13th, the ICA Board of Directors voted unanimously to extend assistance in every possible way to the Canadian chiropractic community as they defend their country against continuing public attacks by the medical community and the government's grossly discriminatory policies.

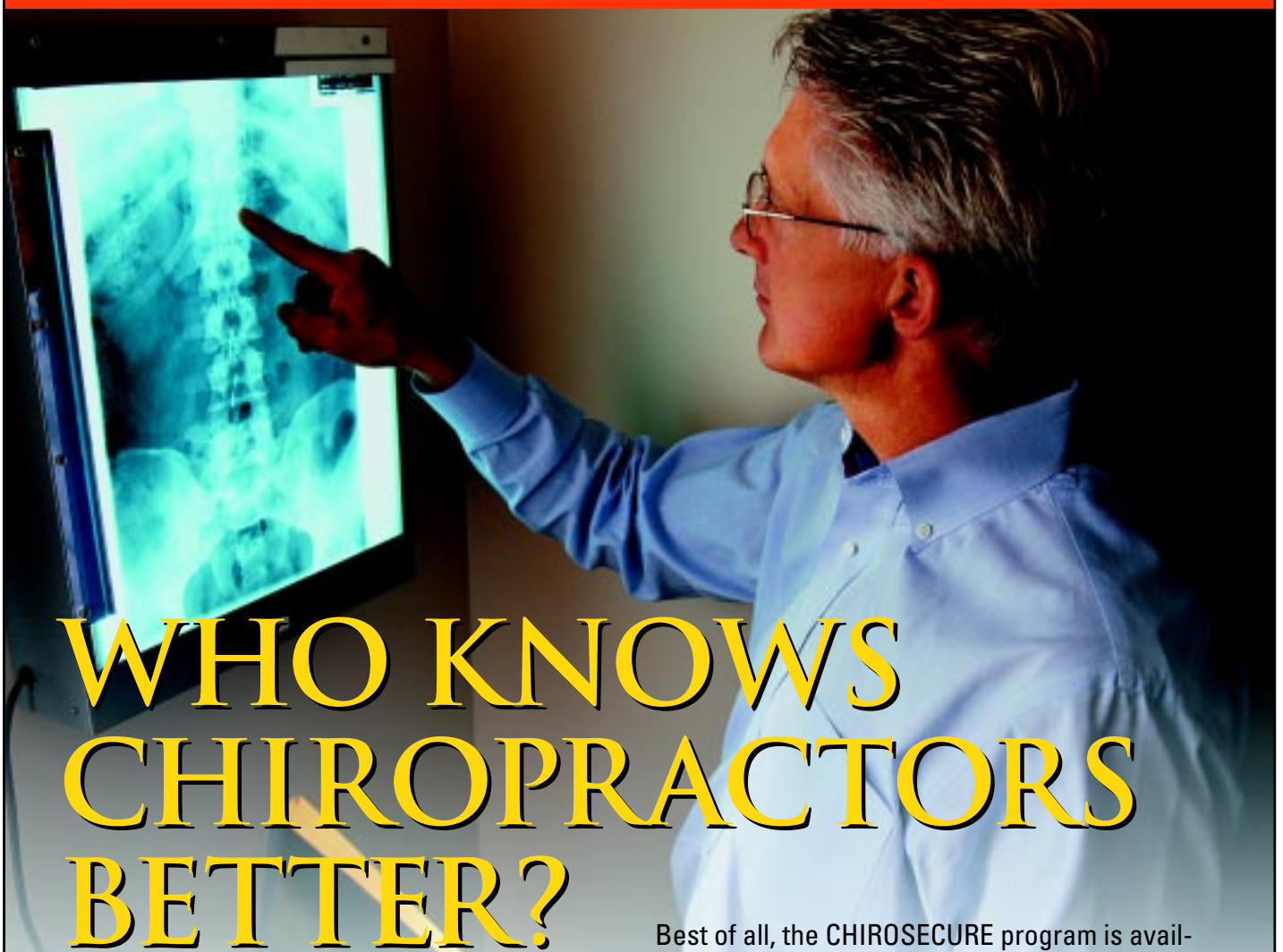
"ICA stepped up with courage and generosity when the Manitoba Chiropractors' Association sued the medical profession in a defamation suit against the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons," Dr. Schaeffer added. "What is needed now is not just money but a

call to action and the putting of chiropractic organizations on notice that the world of chiropractic is at risk because of the Canadian developments and the world community cannot afford to sit idle while those decisions remain standing."

ICA encourages all chiropractic organizations worldwide to unite in support of the Canadian effort. For more information or to donate to the Canadian Emergency Fund, call ICA at 1-800-423-4690.

The Chiropractic Choice is interested in receiving information from DCs in practice about chiropractic in their country so we can share the information with our readers via this column. The more we know about what is happening worldwide the better for us as a profession. Please send by email to thechiropracticchoice@chiropractic.org

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1. GCC website, www.gcc-uk.org.