

## **Health-care Concerns Draw Crowd**

*Calgary Herald, January 18, 2010*

Health-care advocacy group Friends of Medicare reached out to Calgary's South Asian immigrant community Sunday, giving them a forum to talk about the system.

Jagtar Shergill said about 120 people turned up at a forum at the Whitehorn Community Centre in the city's northeast, with many expressing the same concerns as other Calgarians about access to doctors and long waiting lists to see specialists or get tests like an MRI.

"Most of the concerns were that the government is not listening and we're getting policies forced on us," said Shergill. "They're telling us what they're doing and not consulting the community."

Shergill said there were people from the city's Indo-Canadian community who told stories of sending relatives to India to get treatment or tests because it's quicker.

"I think it's a shame. We are such a wealthy country and these people are going outside to get basic treatment," said Shergill.

But most immigrants can't afford to seek treatment outside the country, nor have they had anywhere to go with their complaints about the system.

Shergill said Friends of Medicare is trying to mobilize those communities and take their concerns to the government.

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