

# SPECIAL SECTION

Full coverage and analysis of all of Romanow's recommendations, plus Paul Wells on the coming battle. R1-R7

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*Chrétien, opposition, banks say it's too much - Eves says it's too little*

## ROMANOW WANTS \$15B INFUSION

### Wilhelm's not alone

Re: 'My One Hope Was This Drug,' Nov. 28.

Sadly, Linda Wilhelm's story is one of over 40,000 stories of Canadians living with severe rheumatoid arthritis fighting to get the medications and health-care services they desperately need to function, let alone live any semblance of quality of life.

Tragically, in Alberta, Prince Edward Island and Ms. Wilhelm's home province, New Brunswick, the fight for access painfully drags on. Neither Enbrel nor Remicade have been placed on the provincial drug benefit plans. The ministers of health in these provinces should hang their heads in shame for allowing this to happen.

Let us hope the Romanow Report brings transparency, accountability and public participation as key ingredients of the "cure" it will prescribe for Canada's chronically ill health-care system. Otherwise, Canadians like Ms. Wilhelm will have witnessed millions of dollars being thrown out the government window rather than paying for drug coverage for catastrophic and chronic illnesses such as rheumatoid arthritis.

*Cheryl Koehn, president, Arthritis Consumer Experts, member organization, Best Medicines Coalition, Vancouver.*