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RE: Notice of Withdrawal for Teddy Awarded March 1, 2006

The CTF withdraws its March 1st Teddy waste award to the government of Manitoba for funding excess skin removal and BoTox injections and apologizes to the victims of multiple scoliosis, cerebral palsy, cancer, burn accidents or any and all other inflictions for which these procedures were necessary.

When tax expenditures by the Winnipeg Health Authority first reported by the *Winnipeg Sun* on December 4, 2005, \$10,895, for BoTox and \$981,000 for “tummy tucks and fat reducing surgeries” it was implied that the said amounts were for cosmetic purposes.

On March 8, 2006 Manitoba Health Minister Tim Sale wrote us to state that “procedures must be deemed medically necessary to be covered by Manitoba Health,” and that the procedures in question were “medically necessary.” The CTF has no evidence to suggest otherwise.

Our intent in granting a Teddy was to point out that governments need to prioritize expenditures. Cosmetic surgery of any sort should not be funded by government and certainly not funded while wait lists exist for urgent procedures and tests.

Again, the CTF sincerely apologizes to any and all victims for whom these procedures were, and continue to be necessary for in the future.

Troy Lanigan
National Communications Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation