The Canadian health care system is undergoing fundamental restructuring that will require important changes in doctors' professional roles. S.E.D. Shortt, a practising physician for two decades, argues that rather than resisting such changes, as has sometimes happened in the past, doctors could make significant contributions to the design and operation of a new system of health care.

The Doctor Dilemma provides a timely discussion of policy issues in five key areas of physician-related public policy in Ontario: physician payment schemes, regulation of the number of physicians and their distribution, monitoring of the quality of medical care, the role of physicians in hospitals, and the regulation of new medical technologies. Shortt defines the scope of the problems, clarifies the focus of the debate, identifies the constraints on policy formation, and discusses the policy options available. He accepts the inevitability of substantial change to the health care system and the way practitioners work but believes that if doctors take part in the process such change can ultimately lead to a better system of health care in Ontario. The Doctor Dilemma puts the debate into a balanced context and helps pave the way to finding solutions.

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