






HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CANADIANS

Canadians are rightly proud of our public, universal health care system, but lately it has not been meeting expectations. I often hear from our community about how hard it is to find a family doctor; how emergency room wait times are too long, that routine procedures and visits to specialists take months to fulfill, and how the need for mental health and substance use support far outweighs the capacity. Our health care system and our health workers are under enormous strain, a situation that was made worse by the pandemic, and needs immediate action to deliver better health care for Canadians.

The Government of Canada has made a generational, \$198.6 billion which will go to provinces and territories over the next decade to improve health care services for Canadians. This includes:

- More doctors and nurses in our system, to improve access to family medicine and primary care teams
- Support for long term care with improved conditions and fairer wages for personal support workers
- Clearing the backlog and shortening the wait times for surgeries, procedures and visits to specialists
- Better support for foreign credential qualifications to ensure that internationally trained medical professionals can practice in Canada.
- Immediate support for pediatric hospitals and emergency rooms, and increased support for Indigenous health services.

Helping Canadian seniors age with dignity, closer to home, with access to home care or care in a safe long-term care facility is an area of personal priority. I've heard from so many workers and unions that represent support workers, so I am proud that we have provided an additional \$1.7 billion over 5 years to support wage increases for personal support workers and related professions.

As your MP, I want to assure you that the Government of Canada will continue working with the Province of Ontario in your best interest, with a focus on protecting our public, universal healthcare system to ensure equitable delivery. I will always fight to make sure that we access healthcare with our health card, never our credit card, and that people get the support they deserve on the basis of need, not their ability or willingness to pay.

\$198.6 BILLION OVER 10 YEARS FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE

SUPPORTING OUR FRONT-LINE HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Health care workers are there for us when we need them and we must be there for them too.

That's why we're increasing health investments in health care by \$198.6 billion over the next 10 years. But, money alone won't fix problems. We've included conditions and accountability measures in these agreements to achieve better results and outcomes. We're also supporting changes so that health workers can work across Canada and internationally educated health professionals can more quickly put their skills and experience to work here. These measures will help hire more health care workers, which will reduce backlogs and improve health care for Canadians.



We'll keep working to build a strong health workforce so Canadians can receive the best quality care.

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CANADIANS



Mental health is health, and through these bilateral agreements, we are working with provinces and territories to integrate mental health and substance use care as a full and equal part of our universal health care system. These agreements will work to provide greater access to mental health services, reduce substance use harms, and lower stigma. Together, we must ensure that all Canadians have access to supports and services for their mental health and well-being.

Some Canadians still fall through the cracks trying to get the mental health support they need. We're focused on solutions to these issues.

We're making sure provinces and territories deliver results by ensuring mental health and substance use care is a full and equal part of our universal health care system - so that nobody is left behind.

MORE FUNDING FOR SENIORS, CHILDREN AND INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Every senior in Canada deserves to live in dignity, safety and comfort, regardless of where they live. Our Government is determined to do more to support seniors across the country. Our investment of \$1.7 billion will increase wages for personal support workers, and \$6 billion over 5 years to improve home and community care.

Children and youth have unique needs from a health care perspective, but the system has traditionally treated them like tiny adults. Our plan includes a specific carve-out for pediatrics and children focused care, with an immediate transfer of \$2 billion to shorten wait times in pediatric hospitals.

First Nations, Inuit, and Métis face challenges when it comes to accessing fair and equitable health services, both on-reserve and within urban settings. Our investments include \$2 billion to help address service gaps for Indigenous Peoples through the new Indigenous Health Equity Fund. As part of our commitment to reconciliation, we will work closely with Indigenous partners to prioritize and disburse this funding.



WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR CANADIANS

Canadians deserve a **universal**, **accessible** and **high-quality** health care system that provides **timely access** to health services when and where they need them.

No one should be left behind.

Everyone should have access to the same quality of care regardless of their age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic location, religion or socio-economic status.

CANADIANS DESERVE A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES:



access to high-quality family health services when they need them, including in rural and remote areas, and for underserved communities



a resilient and supported health workforce that provides them high-quality, effective and safe health services when they need them



access to timely, equitable and quality mental health, substance use and addictions services to support their well-being



access to their own electronic health information that is shared between health professionals they consult



access to home care and safe long-term care so they can age safely and live in dignity



For more information, visit Canada.ca/Health

CANADA HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE & KIDSPORT HALTON

Recently my Halton colleagues MPs Karina Gould, Anita Anand and Pam Damoff and I announced funding from our government which will support the health & well-being of our neighbours here in Halton.

Our Government's CHCI program is investing over \$340,000 with local Halton community serving organizations like Food for Life, YMCA, and the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton.

Through KidSport, 13 organizations across Halton will have access to over \$65,000 in funding to support families who need a little support in accessing community sports activities through Canada's Community Sport for All Initiative.



Sport, physical activity and recreation teach essential life lessons and are a catalyst to a healthy and happy lifestyle. Equal access to these opportunities is a matter of health equity for Canadians of all ages and backgrounds. Initiatives like this one with KidSport help us ensure every kid gets a chance to be active and play sports.

CANADA DENTAL BENEFIT

The Canada Dental Benefit is available for families with children under 12 who have an adjusted net income of less than \$90,000 and who don't have access to private dental insurance. This benefit will grant eligible families up-front, direct payments totalling up to \$1,300 per child (up to \$650 per year, for two years) to access dental care services. This benefit will remain in place until 2024, while we continue to work towards a long-term, national dental care program.



So far this year, about **850 children in Milton** have been registered, and had a visit to the dentist. That's over **\$500,000 in support to local families** for oral health! To register, or get more info on this benefit, please visit Canada.ca/dental

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CANCERS LINKED TO FIREFIGHTING

The House of Commons has unanimously passed Bill C-224, *an act to establish a national framework for the prevention and treatment of cancers linked to firefighting*. Everyday firefighters put their lives on the line to keep Canadians safe. We have heard concerns from firefighters and stakeholders about the harmful chemicals released during household fires. We are taking necessary action to protect these first responders in their lifesaving work, and I thank my colleague MP Sherry Romanado for her work on this vital legislation.

