Health care transformation –

Despite significant investments in health care and improvements in medical treatment and technologies, health outcomes in Canada are not improving. The incidence of chronic disease, such as diabetes and the corresponding risk factors, among them obesity, continues to rise. These negative outcomes can have a significant impact on the prosperity of the country as health is necessary for individuals to lead a prosperous and autonomous life.

While the federal government’s investment in the sector has continually increased, it is generally agreed that, in terms of its health care system, Canada is no longer a strong performer compared to similar nations.

As in other leading industrialized countries, the government of Canada must play a stewardship role in the effective allocation of health-related resources, which in turn will foster a productive workforce and a strong economy.

Canadians expect the government of Canada to work with the provinces and territories to ensure we have a strong, high-quality health care system. Canadian patients and their families endure some of the longest wait times for medical treatment in the industrialized world, but with political leadership we can build a system that is able to meet the changing needs of our society.

Fast facts
Canada ranks seventh highest of 34 OECD countries in per capita health care spending, but falls below most comparator countries in terms of performance.

In 2012, governments in Canada spent more than $146 billion on health, or 8.2% of GDP (forecasted).

The federal government is responsible for the delivery of health care services to about 1.24 million Canadians. In health care delivery, the federal government is responsible for the fifth-largest jurisdiction in Canada.

There is no pan-Canadian framework for accountability to the public on performance (quality and timeliness), outcomes or expenditures.

The provinces and territories have begun to collaborate in sharing best practices in health care. What is needed now is federal leadership and vision to boost the overall performance of Canada’s health care system.

Canada’s health care system needs:
- The federal government to engage with the provinces and territories to identify pan-Canadian metrics and measurements that would link health expenditures to nationally comparable health outcomes and demonstrate accountability to Canadians.

This would:
- Ensure best value for money spent on health care.
- Demonstrate accountability for federal spending to Canadians.
- Help make health care more efficient.

To learn more, please write to grassroots@cma.ca or call 800-663-7336 x2397

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