



December 6, 2022

Dear First Ministers:

Health care is in crisis in every province and territory in Canada. On behalf of Canada’s doctors, we are writing to urge you, as First Ministers, to chart the path out of this crisis with commitments to significant funding increases, pan-Canadian collaboration and accountability to patients.

Together, as the national and provincial-territorial medical associations, we are disappointed that meaningful commitments to pan-Canadian collaboration and increased health care funding did not emerge from the recent health ministers’ meeting in Vancouver. Every day that passes without an agreement between governments is another day Canadian patients are left waiting unreasonably long for the medical care they need.

Our medical associations have long called for increased health funding from the federal government to provincial/territorial governments via the Canada Health Transfer. We remain deeply concerned that the federal share of health funding is projected to decline in the near-term, as provinces and territories face unprecedented challenges and increasing health care needs.

However, federal and provincial/territorial governments must collectively ensure that new and increased funding delivers improved health care for Canadians. Canada’s doctors are gravely concerned that patients are experiencing increasingly longer wait times, lack of access to primary care, cancelled procedures, delayed diagnostics; all indicating negative trends in access to health care in Canada. **It is clear that both increased funding and new investments are needed.**

On behalf of Canada’s doctors, we respectfully urge First Ministers to advance meaningful action for the patients of Canada. The gaps in our health care system are growing wider with every day that passes without the necessary political leadership to address the growing crisis. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we may collaborate on the need for new funding and action to address Canada’s health care crisis.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alike Lafontaine  
President  
Canadian Medical Association

Dr. Michèle Michaud  
President  
New Brunswick Medical Society

Dr. John Gjevre  
President  
Saskatchewan Medical Association

Dr. fred Rinaldi  
President  
Alberta Medical Association

Dr. Candace Bradshaw  
President  
Doctors Manitoba

Dr. Ian MacNiven  
President  
Northwest Territories Medical Association

Dr. Ramneek Dosanjh  
President  
Doctors of BC

Dr. Alex Kmet  
President  
Yukon Medical Association

Dr. Krista Cassell  
President  
Medical Society of Prince Edward Island

Dr. Leisha Hawker  
President  
Doctors Nova Scotia

Dr. Rose Zacharias  
President  
Ontario Medical Association

Dr. Vincent Oliva  
President  
Fédération des médecins  
spécialistes du Québec

Dr. Marc-André Amyot  
President  
Fédération des médecins  
omnipraticiens du Québec

Dr. Kris Luscombe  
President  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Medical Association

CC: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Health and Finance Ministers