



CANet

CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIA NETWORK OF CANADA
RÉSEAU CANADIEN SUR L'ARYTHMIE CARDIAQUE

2019 Pre-Budget Submission to the House of Commons
Standing Committee on Finance

August 2018



Recommendation 1:

That the federal budget include funding, either directly to the Cardiac Arrhythmia Network of Canada or through the Network of Centres of Excellence, of up to \$50 million over five years, beginning in 2020, for the Cardiac Arrhythmia Network of Canada to continue its innovative, technologically ground-breaking medical research, design, and development for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmia in Canadians.

Background

Heart rhythm disturbances affect millions of Canadians, resulting in tragic sudden unexpected deaths, reduced quality of life, and reduced productivity. Heart rhythm problems come in three forms: sudden cardiac death (the leading cause of death in Canada, killing 40,000 Canadians yearly and projected to be the number one cause of mortality and morbidity in the world by 2020); atrial fibrillation (affecting 25% of Canadians and a fast-growing epidemic in the developed and developing world); and syncope (loss of consciousness, affecting 10 million Canadians at great expense and having few effective treatments).

The Cardiac Arrhythmia Network of Canada (CANet) aims to bridge the gap in public knowledge and care options for Canadians suffering from cardiac arrhythmias. CANet brings together healthcare professionals, academia, government, industry, not-for-profit, and patients to support innovation and ground-breaking research in the cardiac arrhythmia realm. Through federal government funding via the Centre of Networks of Excellence, as well as other partner investments of over \$40 million, our work has resulted in the first of its kind advances in medical technology. CANet's efforts over our first three years have made it possible that self-care will soon be available for patients dealing with cardiac arrhythmias, and Canada is well poised to be the global leader on this front with a made-in-Canada solution.

CANet is committed to developing effective practical solutions that address unmet healthcare patient needs, and promote their use in personal, healthcare, and business applications. Our approach is to put the right tools in the right hands at the right time, to empower:

- Patients to manage their own health
- Caregivers to improve patient care at the bedside and in the community
- Healthcare providers to give timely, effective, and efficient services

As we continue to develop our technology, CANet is aiming to upscale their research and development through the assembly of key stakeholders, working with patients and other end-users to strike key priorities, and generating new knowledge about the roles of novel technology to identify patients at risk of arrhythmia.

Recommendations

As CANet enters its third year, we are looking towards our federal funding renewal review in 2019. In just three short years, CANet has been able to make significant advances in research, design and technology to bring Canada one step closer to enabling patients to access self-treatment options for arrhythmias from their smartphone. Our work will lead to reduction in emergency room visits and hospitalization, thereby alleviating strain on the medical system and freeing up beds for those in critical need.

However, we need funding renewal to take us over the finish line and help Canada become a global leader in self-care solutions for cardiac arrhythmias at home and around the world. CANet's technology can be patented and licensed out to other countries around the world, and our technology can be applied to other medical conditions and other businesses. Canada is on the cusp of becoming the global leader and innovator in the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias, and the federal government should not miss this opportunity for Canadians.

Our work will create the foundation for job growth and development in new, technologically advanced fields. But we still have work to do, and we cannot abandon the progress we've made so far.



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