

HEAL



Organizations for Health Action

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget

By Organizations for Health Action (HEAL)

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HEAL's Pre-Budget Recommendations

To promote Canada's economic competitiveness, HEAL recommends that the federal government focus on **Seniors Care** by:

- 1.** implementing a **Demographic Top-Up Transfer** that would be allocated based on the combined weight of the age-sex composition of a province's population.
- 2.** investing \$150 million (\$30 million per year over 5 years) to support the delivery of the **national dementia strategy**.
- 3.** coordinating the development of a **pan-Canadian caregiver strategy**.

ABOUT HEAL

HEAL, Organizations for Health Action, is a coalition of 41 national health organizations dedicated to improving the health of Canadians and the quality of care they receive.

Our members are professional associations of regulated health care providers and organizations of health charities that provide a range of health care services across Canada.

Created in 1991, HEAL now represents more than 800,000 providers (and consumers) of health care, in over twenty different health care professions.

HEAL as an organization is uniquely placed to represent and champion issues and innovations that shape and reshape health care at the national level.

A key focus for HEAL is the promotion of sustainable solutions and health system transformations for lasting impact on the health and well-being of all Canadians.

HEAL Member Organizations

- Alzheimer Society of Canada
- Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
- Canadian Association of Community Health Centres
- Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
- Canadian Association of Midwives
- Canadian Association of Nuclear Medicine
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Optometrists
- Canadian Association of Physician Assistants
- Canadian Association of Radiologists
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Cardiovascular Society
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian College of Health Leaders
- Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association
- Canadian Dental Association
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- Canadian Dermatology Association
- Canadian Interventional Radiology Association
- Canadian Massage Therapist Alliance
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Canadian Nurses Association
- Canadian Ophthalmological Society
- Canadian Orthopaedic Association
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Podiatric Medical Association
- Canadian Psychiatric Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
- Canadian Society of Nutrition Management
- Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists
- Catholic Health Alliance of Canada
- College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Dietitians of Canada
- HealthCareCAN
- Paramedic Association of Canada
- Registered Massage Therapists' Association of Ontario
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- Speech-Language & Audiology Canada

STRENGTHENING CANADIANS' HEALTHCARE: ESSENTIAL TO OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

HEAL agrees with the Budget 2018 statement which says, "A strong publicly funded health care system is not just a point of pride for Canadians, it is also an essential foundation for a strong, fair and prosperous country in the years to come."

HEAL's recommendations encourage collaboration between governments and providers, proposing measures and investments to improve overall system effectiveness and contribute to positioning Canada as a top performing country.

In 2016, HEAL released its first consensus statement, [*The Canadian Way –Accelerating Innovation and Improving Health Systems Performance*](#), following more than two years of research, review and reflection.

The Canadian Way (2016) reflected an unprecedented level of agreement amongst a broad representation of health sector professionals and delivery organizations about the role of the federal government in improving the health of Canadians and the care they received.

Moreover, the paper discussed and considered many contemporary structural, demographic and financial challenges associated with the delivery of interdisciplinary/ inter-professional health care in Canada.

In the coming months, HEAL will release ***The Canadian Way 2.0***, which discusses and evaluates the progress that has been made by the federal government in the last two years. *The Canadian Way 2.0* also identifies two priority areas which take into account the current environment: seniors care and mental health services.

The following pre-budget recommendations will be focused on ushering in greater investments for Seniors Care, as our Canadian Way 2.0 contains very specific and immediate recommendations in that area that could be implemented in the upcoming budget.

However, it should be noted that HEAL continues its broader advocacy activities to address increasing and improving mental health services across Canada.

A CALL FOR FOCUSED INVESTMENTS IN SENIORS CARE

Canada is grappling with the impact of our aging population and an increase in chronic disease across the lifespan.

According to Statistics Canada, over 15% of the Canadian population was over the age of 65 at the time of the last census (double from the 7.6% of the population over 65 from the time- period during which the healthcare system was founded).^{1,2}

By 2036, this age group is expected to make up more than 25% of the population. And because healthcare costs increase with age, the demands of this demographic shift on the Canadian health care system will compound.³

Moreover, 30% of Canadian seniors live with two or more chronic conditions⁴, the incidence of which increase with age. Some of these are specific to older adults. In particular, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada, more than 402,000 seniors were living with dementia in Canada in 2013.

By 2031, it is projected that the total annual health care costs for Canadians with dementia will have doubled from two decades earlier, from \$8.3 billion to \$16.6 billion.⁵

As Canada's population ages, it will be critical for the federal government to lead with a proactive approach which maximizes its health care spending on seniors, reduces its dependency on acute care delivery, and leverages innovation and community services.

HEAL RECOMMENDATION #1

The Canadian Health Transfer (CHT) is the single largest federal transfer to the provinces and territories. This funding is critical in supporting provincial and territorial health programs in Canada.

¹ Canadian Medical Association. *The State of Seniors Health Care in Canada* (2016); Statistics Canada. Canada's population estimates: Age and sex. The Daily. Ottawa: Statistics Canada; 2015 Jul 1. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/150929/dq150929b-eng.htm>

² Canadian Medical Association. *The State of Seniors Health Care in Canada* (2016); Statistics Canada. The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada, 2014: Public Health in the Future. Ottawa: Statistics Canada; 2015. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2014/chang-eng.php>

³ Canadian Institute for Health Information. Health Care Cost Drivers: The Facts. Ottawa: CIHI; 2011. https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/health_care_cost_drivers_the_facts_en.pdf; (accessed 2018 June 15).

⁴ Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention, Public Health Agency of Canada. Chronic Disease and Injury Indicator Framework: 2016 Edition. Ottawa (ON): Public Health Agency of Canada; 2016 (cited 2017 June 1). <https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca:9600/PHAC/dimensionMembers.jsp?l=en&rep=i3212B12F133F4CE88AD13DB60CA37237&s#>.

⁵ Public Health Agency of Canada, Neurological Health Charities Canada. Mapping connections: An understanding of neurological conditions in Canada. Ottawa (ON): Public Health Agency of Canada; 2014. Report no.: HP35-45/2014E-PDF: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.699466/publication.html>

However, as Canada's population ages, provincial and territorial governments will continue to face increasing financial pressure to provide necessary levels of care.

The CHT is an equal per-capita based transfer to provinces and territories. As such, it does not currently account for population segments with increased health needs, specifically seniors.

The Conference Board of Canada calculated the amount for the top-up to the CHT using a needs-based projection. For the fiscal years 2017–20, this top-up would require \$1.66 to 1.88 billion annually in federal investment.⁶

To promote Canada's economic competitiveness, HEAL recommends that the federal government focus on Seniors Care by implementing a Demographic Top-Up Transfer that would be allocated based on the combined weight of the age-sex composition of a province or territory's population compared to the average age-sex specific health expenditure profile.

Canada's premiers have previously called for the federal government to increase the CHT to 25% of provincial and territorial health care costs to address the needs of an aging population.

Rather than change the current CHT formula, HEAL recommends that an additional demographic top-up transfer be allocated to provinces and territories based on the projected increase in health care spending associated with an aging population.

HEAL RECOMMENDATION #2

The costs of caring for people with dementia alone are estimated to be 5.5 times greater than caring for people without the condition. Home care and long-term care are the biggest contributors to direct health care costs.⁷ Furthermore, it is estimated that on average, 74 hours per week of informal care is required for Canadians living with dementia.⁸

⁶ Canadian Medical Association. 2017 Pre-Budget Submission, 2016, <https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/submissions/2016-aug-05-cma-2017-pre-budget-submission-e.pdf>

⁷ Alzheimer Society of Canada. Prevalence and monetary costs of dementia in Canada [Internet]. Toronto (ON): Alzheimer Society of Canada; 2016 [cited 2017 June 1]. Available from: http://www.alzheimer.ca/~media/Files/national/Statistics/PrevalenceandCostsofDementia_EN.pdf.

⁸ Public Health Agency of Canada, Neurological Health Charities Canada. Mapping connections: An understanding of neurological conditions in Canada – Chapter 2. Ottawa (ON): Public Health Agency of Canada; 2014. Report no.: HP35-45/2014E-PDF. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cd-mc/mc-ec/section-2-eng.php>.

To promote Canada's economic competitiveness, HEAL recommends that the federal government focus on Seniors Care by investing \$150 million (\$30 million per year over 5 years) to support the delivery of a national dementia strategy.

This new \$150 million funding would (as per the recommendation of the Alzheimer Society of Canada⁹):

- address ways to tackle young onset and late-stage Alzheimer's disease and other dementias;
- provide accreditation and training programs for all healthcare providers¹⁰;
- promote a shift to home and community-based care;
- support a new annual conference where the federal government and other stakeholders would report back on progress regarding implementation of the national dementia strategy; and,
- increase financial support for family caregivers.

HEAL RECOMMENDATION #3

To promote Canada's economic competitiveness, HEAL recommends that the federal government focus on Seniors Care by coordinating the development of a pan-Canadian caregiver strategy.

Such a strategy would address:

- accessible and flexible respite;
- mitigation of undue financial burdens;
- information and support systems;
- flexible workplace options that afford job protection; and,
- access to supports and resources in education institutions.

Specifically, the strategy would include tax measures to protect workers' incomes. At the same time, employers and employees would benefit from obtaining support and guarantee workplace leave protection and respite care.¹¹ These federal tax measures would reduce productivity losses for public and private sector employers, while recognizing and supporting the needs of working caregivers.

HEAL encourages the federal government to identify and develop these tax measures through consultation with employer stakeholders in 2019-2020.¹²

⁹ http://www.alzheimer.ca/sites/default/files/files/national/advocacy/pre-budget_submission_aug_4_2017.pdf; and Budget 2018 proposes to provide \$20 million over five years, starting in 2018-19, and \$4 million per year ongoing, to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support community-based projects that address the challenges of dementia <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/docs/plan/budget-2018-en.pdf>

¹⁰ A recommendation in the Senate report calls for "the proposed Canadian Partnership to Address Dementia work with Accreditation Canada, within the context of the National Dementia Strategy, to develop standards of dementia care for acute care hospitals."

¹¹ Canadian Medical Association. 2017 Pre-Budget Submission, 2016. https://www.cma-aiic.ca/-/media/cna/page-content/pdf-en/cna-2016-pre-budget-submission-to-standing-committee-on-financ_e.pdf?la=en&hash=EAD7B194F6258A57F09D684366A642B147531FC0

¹² https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/transparency/health-agreements/principles-shared-health-p_riorities.html

INVESTMENTS IN SENIORS CARE MUST FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN BUDGET 2019

HEAL members face challenges every day in providing services and care for our aging and diverse population. As such, we are well positioned to see first-hand how healthcare investments are integral to a healthy, productive workforce.

We can also attest to how strategic, evidence-based policy decisions rooted in wellness, prevention and community care leads to resource maximization and greater cost savings for all levels of governments.

To ensure fiscal responsibility and an optimized health care system, we urge members of the Standing Committee on Finance to highlight the importance of investments in Seniors Care in its next Pre-Budget Recommendation Report.

Furthermore, to obtain a fuller picture of HEAL's healthcare recommendations, we encourage Committee members to consult *The Canadian Way 2.0* when it is released this fall.
