



CENTRE FOR AGING  
+ BRAIN HEALTH  
INNOVATION  
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# Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2021 Budget

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By: the Centre for Aging +  
Brain Health Innovation

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- **Recommendation:** The government renew 5-year funding for the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation in the amount of \$60 million to help Canada grow its economy and care for its seniors.

# Growing the Economy & Caring for Our Seniors

With the COVID-19 pandemic impacting every aspect of our lives, Canada faces tremendous challenges to its health and economic prosperity. **The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation is poised to turn those challenges into opportunities: helping restart the Canadian economy, while enhancing the lives of Canadians most vulnerable to the disease – older adults and individuals living with dementia.**

As Canada's aged population increases, so too does the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Over 500,000 Canadians – more than 10% of Canadians 65 or older – live with dementia, and that number is expected to reach 1.5 million by 2031. Even before the COVID-19 crisis, annual costs for direct care of Canadians with dementia exceeded \$10 billion, with combined direct and indirect costs over \$30 billion. Dementia is not just a Canadian issue, though: every three seconds, someone in the world is diagnosed with dementia, and the annual global costs of dementia top \$1 trillion.

Of course, the costs to individuals living with dementia and their caregivers are immeasurable; and the costs of COVID-19 to these individuals has been not just in dollars, but in lives. Individuals living with dementia account for the vast majority of Canada's COVID-19-related deaths to date. As André Picard eloquently put it, "There is no excuse – medical, political or social – for our failure to do a better job protecting the most vulnerable among us. The lives of people with dementia have as much value as anyone else." (*Globe & Mail*, August, 4, 2020).

Canada is committed to improving the lives of older adults by proactively addressing the challenges of dementia, as demonstrated through the Federal government's creation of the first **National Dementia Strategy**; and through unprecedented investments in fundamental research, including support of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which counts the Canadian Consortium of Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) among its key initiatives. As noted in other submissions (including those by HealthCareCAN and Research Canada), additional research funding is absolutely critical to ensure we have a strong foundation to solve Canada's most urgent problems.

However, traditionally-funded discovery and translational research take us only so far. Innovations stemming from research at Canada's colleges, universities, and hospitals, or developed by industry or senior care providers, must be developed sufficiently to establish value, scalability, and the potential for widespread procurement and adoption. This can occur only through rigorous testing, disciplined evaluation, and compelling validation in real-world care and residential settings. Once value is established, procurement and adoption must be deliberately facilitated to establish market entry, and meaningful impact. Historically, these conditions, essential to introduce impactful innovations into the senior care sector, were largely unmet. **Never has the need for innovations supporting older adults been more apparent than in the face of COVID-19.**

The recent *Interim Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology on the Federal Response to COVID-19*, noted that "there are numerous innovative and potentially effective interventions in LTC for seniors in Canada, but that there is no designated federal body with responsibility for independently evaluating and scaling up these interventions. Such a creative approach to improving LTC is needed.... Witnesses also stressed the importance of aging at home." **Rather than create yet another new organization to fill this critical need, Canada need look no further than CABHI.**

**CABHI programs and services help meet Canada's needs: growing the economy and caring for our seniors.**

## Canada Needs:

- New approaches to prevent dementia, to maintain and improve brain health in older adults, and to increase social inclusion
- Innovative solutions to diagnose at-risk patients for dementia as early as possible, and to care for patients after diagnosis
- Innovative, scalable technologies and solutions to enhance the safety, health, and well-being of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers, including those from rural, Northern, Indigenous, and other under-represented and vulnerable communities
- Increased support for innovators to develop and bring to market the next generation of aging, brain health, and dementia care solutions
- A model for the spread and scale of innovations, and a way to ensure Canada's innovations are delivered coast-to-coast and around the globe



## CABHI is Improving the Aging Experience and Supporting Innovators

In just its first five years, CABHI became Canada's premier innovation accelerator in the aging and brain health sector with a focus on dementia, and elevated Canada's reputation as a true champion of innovation. Overall, CABHI has directed more than **\$117 million towards advancing innovations**, of which more than **\$75 million has been levered from sources external to the Federal government's founding \$42 million contribution in 2015**.

That leveraging enabled support of more than **300 projects**, with **172 solutions introduced into the market or adopted for practice**. CABHI validation projects enhanced the lives of 72,000+ older adults and caregivers, and CABHI engaged an additional 170,000 individuals through our collaborative community of innovators. By supporting programming across a network of more than 120 unique trial sites coast-to-coast, CABHI helped create a knowledgeable citizenry and skilled workforce, with **more than \$50M directed towards creating and sustaining jobs** through our projects. CABHI's innovators and companies have generated significant interest and secured additional investments to scale, spread, and de-risk their innovations beyond the pilot project phase. More than **40% of CABHI companies received follow-on investment** through our industry program, gaining an additional **\$110M+ in secured investments** from private and public sources. CABHI's early, growing, and established companies experienced **up to 400% revenue growth**, with sales facilitated across Canada, the US, and beyond.

CABHI funds projects coast-to-coast, with partnerships in every Province and Territory. As a result, we secured additional earmarked funding for regional priorities in aging and brain health innovation, including advancing innovative solutions for Indigenous, Northern, and rural communities. Our global partnerships bring additional funding and opportunities to Canada. For example, **Israel contributed \$1M in matching funds, and has committed another \$5M** to support bilateral testing, adoption, and scaling of solutions across our countries, *pending funding from the Canadian government*. In addition to CABHI partnerships in Israel, the US, the UK, and Japan, we are working with numerous other innovation and distribution partners around the world, opening international markets to Canadian innovators. CABHI also has brought global companies to Canada, supporting job growth through validation trials and direct foreign investment of companies like Norway's Motitech and Aply Medical incorporating in Canada to house their first North American HQs. Other international companies, like California-based X2ai and SafelyYou, and DC-based LinkedSenior, contribute to Canada's economy by creating joint-IP with Canadian innovators and generating significant savings for our healthcare systems, while enhancing the lives of older adults and their caregivers, and providing extra services to support Canadians through the challenges of COVID-19.

**Even at this early stage in its development, CABHI's strong results demonstrate its significant impact.**

## CABHI'S Unique Value Proposition

CABHI was spearheaded in 2015 by Baycrest, a global leader in aging and brain health care, and home to the Rotman Research Institute, one of the world's most acclaimed research centres in aging and human brain science. CABHI was built on Baycrest's much sought-after expertise through a 5-year funding commitment from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC, \$42M), enabling matching support from the Ontario Government (\$23.5M; with the same level of funding now confirmed through 2025), along with commitments from private donors to the Baycrest Foundation (\$25M) and an ever-growing consortium of private and public partners, including IBM, Quanta, National Bank, the Alzheimer Society of Canada, MaRS Innovation, MEDTEQ, CCNA, Aging2.0, the Seniors Quality Leap Initiative, the Ontario Long Term Care Association, additional Canadian Provinces, and the State of Israel.

**Such strong, multi-sectoral support of CABHI reflects the impact of our programs: identification and advancement of the most promising innovations to optimize brain health in aging adults, and to improve the lives of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.**

CABHI's programs span the innovation pipeline addressing the unique needs of different groups with tailored foundational support services: from scientific advising, to training in innovation and health systems, supporting large scale real-world validation, developing procurement and marketing plans, and helping open markets and secure investors and sales. Rather than duplicate services of broader accelerators, we collaborate with Canadian, US, and international innovation consortia, and CABHI provides specialized support targeted specifically at innovation and commercialization in aging, brain health, and the Canadian seniors' care sector, building on our unique and deep expertise.

## The Vision for CABHI 2026

After just five years, CABHI's value is proven. Canada's investments in CABHI have seen a nearly **5:1 GDP multiple**, for an economic impact of over \$200M. Our approach has had a meaningful impact on older adults and their caregivers, for seniors' care organizations, for innovators, and for the health system. Now we aim **to accelerate innovation and amplify impact**.

**Now more than ever, we need to ensure CABHI's work continues.** We are poised to address the challenges emerging from this unprecedented moment — a global pandemic exacerbating the urgent need for innovation to improve the lives of older adults. Since March, we have addressed the COVID-19 crisis head-on: promoting CABHI solutions to help ease social isolation, maintain cognitive health, and keep long-term care homes safe; conducting virtual townhalls with older adults and caregivers to understand peoples' experiences, priorities, and needs; and helping innovators pivot, create, spread, and scale solutions that truly meet those needs.

**CABHI's goals for the next five years aim to achieve the largest possible societal and economic impact. We will:**

1. Maintain our focus on the effects of an aging population on brain health and the challenges of dementia
2. Partner with other innovation organizations to adapt CABHI's model to other sectors, and advance innovation more broadly in Canada
3. Increase the number of Canadian innovators and partners in the aging and brain health space
4. Engage Canada's diverse population in our innovation activities
5. Enhance Canada's culture of innovation and grow our innovation economy
6. Attract more foreign investment and promote Canadian innovations globally
7. Facilitate implementation, dissemination, and adoption of critically important solutions for aging and brain health
8. Increase the sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness of Canada's health care systems, including LTC, for our aging population, while promoting solutions to age in the place of one's choice
9. Enhance the health and well-being of older individuals at risk for or living with dementia, and their caregivers

## REQUEST:

**The Federal government commit to a renewal of funding for CABHI of \$60 million over 5 years to accelerate innovation and amplify impact.**

This contribution will be matched by \$60 million from other sources (Baycrest Foundation, provincial, international, private, and public sector partners), for a total budget of \$120 million.

The investment will enable CABHI to: increase innovation in senior care; enhance older Canadian's health and quality of life; cement Canada's reputation as a leader of innovation in aging and brain health; and grow Canadian companies, while reducing health system costs. We have the **momentum, infrastructure, networks, and experience to help Canadian companies thrive at this most critical moment.**

**Canada has a unique opportunity to restart the Canadian economy as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. CABHI stands ready to help Canada and Canadian companies seize that opportunity.**

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Contact: Dr. Allison Sekuler, Managing Director, CABHI  
[vpr@research.baycrest.org](mailto:vpr@research.baycrest.org)