

**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget  
Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming  
Federal Budget**

**By: Closing the Gap Healthcare**



**Recommendation One:** To address the growing need for support in the health care sector in a manner that respects provincial and territorial responsibilities, the Government of Canada create a Health Innovation Tax Credit to stimulate improvements, modernize care services and improve patient outcomes in home and community care.

# Health Innovation Tax Credit

Creating new possibilities for patients across Canada



Innovation is synonymous with health care in Canada. Across all facets of the health care system, providers, researchers and associations are continuously implementing new processes and tools to improve patient care and experience. However, financial realities, capacity challenges and resource constraints can inhibit innovation from flourishing.

With the federal government's support, a Health Innovation Tax Credit can incentivize providers and companies to develop innovations aimed at supporting better health outcomes for patients.

## ► Why innovation?

Let's consider Closing the Gap Healthcare (CTG), a leading home care provider in Ontario and Nova Scotia. To support the estimated 1.3 million seniors in Canada who suffer from chronic loneliness, CTG developed the **Keeping Connected Program** to connect older adults with Call Companions over the phone. A simple call has the power to monitor client well-being, keep seniors safe, and living at home independently.

Imagine the possibilities if this service innovated further to include video calls or virtual gatherings with peers. Innovative thinking is especially crucial as our seniors face growing mental and even physical health risks due to COVID-19 and increased isolation.

## ► What is possible through a Health Innovation Tax Credit?

- **Remote patient monitoring systems** including in-home tech support for home care clients with cognitive impairment to allow for regular and remote check ins.
- **Applications and e-tools** for chronic disease management and clinical decision support.
- **Hardware** with specific capabilities for portable internet, wound care technology, disease monitoring by public health units, directly observed therapy, and virtual primary care visits (this is particularly beneficial for rural and remote populations).
- **Intravenous infusion pumps** with drug library software, vital sign monitors, and blood glucose screening are all devices that can integrate with Electronic Health Records (this technology is applicable for the community, acute care and long-term care facilities and allows timely access to the information for all members of the Health Care Team).
- **e-Prescribing.**
- **Patient portals** to empower patients and families with access to their health information from home.