

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

**By: Purkinje**

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## **Recommendation:**

**That the federal government conduct a review of their technology infrastructure needs and procure the appropriate solutions to better manage and prevent COVID-19 outbreaks, for areas where they have a direct responsibility to the health and safety of people, such as Correctional Facilities.**

**As governments prepare for a second wave of COVID-19** and determine what could have been better addressed throughout the first wave of the virus, Purkinje believes the federal government should be seeking solutions that addresses the challenges of disease monitoring. The rapid advancement of COVID-19 has brought forth attention to how governments can better contain diseases and accurately track numbers within settings that they are responsible for, such as correctional facilities. Indeed, this is a challenge all levels of governments face and are implementing solutions in community care settings from hospitals to long-term care. In many cases, clinical health information is still documented on paper or on a limited IT system, presenting challenges for patient monitoring, especially with a disease such as COVID-19 that infects unequivocally. Furthermore, we know that there are some settings that a virus like COVID-19 will thrive within, which puts further emphasis on having systems in place to prevent disease outbreaks at the very start. For instance, a recent study from Harvard University's Department of Anthropology and the Center National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris found that correctional facilities may be a large source of coronavirus spread both inside the facilities and the surrounding communities they are located within.<sup>1</sup>

While Purkinje (a Canadian software company) IT solutions are bilingual and can track, monitor, and manage COVID-19 cases in a number of institutional settings including corrections facilities, we believe that it would be prudent for the federal government to undertake a review of their needs, and allow for the appropriate solution to be put forward.

### About Purkinje

Purkinje is a Canadian health care IT solutions company based in Quebec, providing and implementing clinical software solutions for over 35 years. Purkinje was one of the first companies to develop an electronic medical record solution for Canadian clinics and since then, Purkinje has implemented various IT solutions in hundreds of clinics, five hospitals and community health centers in New Brunswick and Ontario. We are also a trusted partner with the Canadian Department of National Defense, providing electronic medical records and support services since 1999.

Purkinje has developed a Disease Management and Health Surveillance module that can support and manage the threat of COVID-19 by improving the efficiency of healthcare professionals in identifying potential cases and conducting future clinical planning. The module allows health practitioners to conduct a screening process that can help with early detection of cases and determine the appropriate care pathways. In addition to tracking and monitoring confirmed cases, real-time analytics software built into the module can allow correctional facilities to understand patterns of where the outbreak has spread or is confined to. As the COVID-19 pandemic advances, Purkinje can adapt to the federal government's needs to move quickly while working with a solution that can be implemented well. Remote implementation of the software means that no contact is required, and all training is conducted online.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.00652>

This is why **we are recommending that the government undertake a holistic review of their disease monitoring needs.** Purkinje's Disease Management and Health Surveillance module is a solution that has been proven to succeed, can be implemented remotely, and will improve the health and safety of Canada's inmate population, its staff, and the surrounding communities.