



Last week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a major funding announcement to address the ongoing healthcare crisis. The Government of Canada is investing \$196.1 billion over ten years to provinces and territories to improve healthcare services for Canadians.

This funding will be distributed partially through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and partially through tailor-made agreements with provinces and territories that will allow for flexibility for jurisdictional healthcare system needs. We're also investing \$2.5 billion over 10 years to support Indigenous priorities and complementary federal support.

These investments, totalling \$196.8 billion, on top of already significant funding, will further help provide Canadians with healthcare that includes:

- Access to high-quality family health services
- A resilient and supported health workforce that provides high-quality, effective, and safe health services
- Access to timely, equitable, and quality mental health, substance use, and addictions services
- Access to electronic health information, which is shared between the health professions and patients.

Collaborative work is underway with provinces and territories to help support access to home and long-term care. This includes existing investments of \$6 billion for home and community care and \$4 billion to improve the quality and safety of long-term care. Included in last week's announcement is an additional \$1.7 billion over 5 years to support wage increases for personal support workers and related professions.

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Canada Health Transfer (CHT)

The CHT is the largest federal transfer to provinces and territories. Since 2004-05, the federal government has supported, on average, 32% of provincial and territorial health expenditures.

We're proposing further support to the CHT through two measures:

- An immediate \$2 billion CHT top-up to address immediate pressures on the healthcare system, especially in pediatric hospitals, emergency rooms, and surgical and diagnostic backlogs
- Guaranteed 5% growth to the CHT for the next five years to be paid through the annual top-up payments as required.

To access their share of the federal funding, including the guaranteed 5% growth top-up payments to the CHT, for the next five years, provincial and territorial governments are asked to commit to improving how health information is collected, shared, used, and reported to Canadians to promote greater transparency on results and to help manage public health emergencies.

Bilateral Agreements

The Government of Canada announced \$25 billion over 10 years to provinces and territories to support shared health priorities through tailored bilateral agreements. We recognize that provinces and territories have their own unique circumstances, so the bilateral agreements are intended to be flexible and tailored so that provinces and territories can address the unique needs of their populations and geography. As part of these agreements, investments are to be centred around the four shared health priorities listed above, with jurisdictions having flexibility in designing their action plans.

Additionally, provinces and territories are being asked to streamline foreign credential recognition for internationally-educated health professionals and to advance labour mobility. The Government of Canada is committing to advance and integrate our shared health priorities and support collaboration in areas such as immigration, credential recognition, official language minority communities, and data infrastructure and standards.

Shared Health Indicators and Research

What is measured, matters. By collecting and sharing health information the same way, Canadians can see the progress being made by each jurisdiction to deliver results on the shared priorities in healthcare. The federal government is prepared to measure and report annual progress on the following common indicators:

- Percentage of Canadians who report having access to a regular family health team, a family doctor, or a nurse practitioner
- Size of COVID-19 surgery backlog
- Net new physicians, nurses, and nurse practitioners
- Percentage of youth aged 12-25 with access to integrated youth services for mental health and substance use
- Median wait times for community mental health and substance use services
- Percentage of Canadians with a mental condition who have unmet mental health care needs

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- Percentage of Canadians who can access their own comprehensive health record electronically
- Percentage of family health service providers and other health professionals (e.g., pharmacists, specialists, etc.) who can share patient health information electronically.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) will lead a process with provinces, territories, and experts to review and refine these existing common indicators and develop a broader list, including new indicators. This will provide data on how healthcare is delivered across Canada and how it compares internationally.

Reflections from John

Healthcare is the responsibility of the provinces and territories, with support from the federal government. Healthcare in British Columbia has been an issue for many as the demand for family doctors has risen and the wait times to access healthcare services have increased. This additional funding from the federal government will help the province deliver healthcare services in our universal, publicly funded system. We're also calling on the BC Government to insert some of its recent budgetary surpluses in healthcare.

By working together, the federal and provincial governments can fix this healthcare crisis. British Columbians do not want to see our healthcare system privatized, like the United States, to solve our healthcare woes. By making these investments, the federal government is fighting back against calls from Conservative circles that would love to see private healthcare encroach on our universal healthcare system. For as long as we are in government, healthcare will always remain universal and publicly administered. I welcome this new funding from the federal government, and I am excited to share more with you as more information about what this means for Cloverdale – Langley City becomes available.

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WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR CANADIANS

Canadians deserve a **universal**, **accessible** and **high-quality** health care system that provides **timely access** to health services when and where they need them.

No one should be left behind.

Everyone should have access to the same quality of care regardless of their age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic location, religion or socio-economic status.

CANADIANS DESERVE A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES:



access to high-quality family health services when they need them, including in rural and remote areas, and for underserved communities



a resilient and supported health workforce that provides them high-quality, effective and safe health services when they need them



access to timely, equitable and quality mental health, substance use and addictions services to support their well-being



access to their own electronic health information that is shared between health professionals they consult



access to home care and safe long-term care so they can age safely and live in dignity



For more information, visit Canada.ca/Health

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