

Addendum to the [Canadian Medical Association's Pre-Budget Submission](#)

December 2020

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is pleased to submit this addendum to our pre-budget submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. As indicated in the submission, this addendum outlines costing information related to the CMA's four recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That the government create a one-time Health Care and Innovation Fund to resume health care services, expand primary care teams and bolster public health capacity, allowing Canadians wide-ranging access to health care.

A \$3.5 billion federal investment is necessary to implement this recommendation, including three main components:

- \$1.3 billion to enable provinces and territories in resuming health care services
- \$1.2 billion to expand primary care teams via the Primary Care Transition Fund 2
- \$1 billion to expand public health capacity

RECOMMENDATION 2

That the government recognize and support the continued adoption of virtual care and address the inequitable access to digital health services by creating a Digi-Health Knowledge Bank and by expediting broadband access to all Canadians.

A \$20 million federal investment is needed to establish the new Digi-Health Knowledge Bank.

RECOMMENDATION 3

That the government act on our collective learned lessons regarding our approach to seniors care and create a national demographic top-up to the Canada Health Transfer and establish a Seniors Care Benefit.

A \$2.3 billion federal investment is necessary to implement this recommendation, including two main components:

- \$500 million to launch a new Seniors Care Benefit directly to seniors and their caregivers
- \$1.8 billion in 2021 for an annual demographic-based top-up to the Canada Health Transfer

RECOMMENDATION 4

That the government recognize the unique risks and financial burden experienced by physicians and frontline health care workers by implementing the Frontline Gratitude Tax Deduction and by extending eligibility of the Memorial Grant.

A \$1.756 billion federal investment is necessary to implement this recommendation, including two main components:

- \$1.7 billion to establish a Frontline Gratitude Tax Deduction
- \$56 million to extend eligibility of the Memorial Grant to frontline health care workers