

June 22, 2022

The Honourable John Horgan, MLA  
Premier of British Columbia  
Chair of the Council of the Federation  
[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Council of the Federation meeting and Canada's health funding priorities (health workforce, primary care, labour mobility)**

Dear Premier Horgan:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) in advance of the Council of the Federation's upcoming meeting on July 11-12, 2022 in Victoria in strong support of the Premiers' crucial intergovernmental dialogue on the dire state of Canada's health system.

Today, in every jurisdiction across Canada patients and their families are facing unprecedented levels of lack of access to health care. Waiting lists for specialty care, procedures and diagnostics continue to increase in the face of a mounting health workforce crisis. Health providers are experiencing drastic levels of burnout are departing their profession, shuttering clinics, and reducing hours. The CMA joins the escalating concerns for the collapse of the primary care system and the devastating implications for health care delivery in Canada.

The CMA recognizes that increased federal and provincial/territorial health funding will be needed to address the growing challenges and shortfalls in health care delivery in Canada. The CMA shares the Premiers' concerns that the federal share of the Canada Health Transfer is set to decline over the coming years. The CMA supports substantially increasing the federal funding level, however, it will be critical to ensure that new funding delivers results for Canadians by improving access to health care in targeted areas.

Funding alone will not address the crises in health care. To this end, the CMA is encouraged by the emerging discussions at recent intergovernmental meetings on labour mobility in health care. The CMA strongly supports Canada's Premiers in advancing this dialogue on labour mobility. Modernizing the regulatory framework by permitting the expanded mobility of providers and the further adoption of virtual care as part of our health care system will improve access to health care for all Canadians. Finally, enabling the mobility of health providers will support addressing the pan-Canadian health workforce crisis.

The CMA welcomes the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we may collaborate in addressing these urgent issues in Canada's health care system.

Sincerely,



Katharine Smart, MD, FRCPC  
President, Canadian Medical Association

.cc Premier Jason Kenney, MLA  
Premier Scott Moe, MLA  
Premier Heather Stefanson, MLA  
Premier Doug Ford, MPP  
Premier François Legault, MNA  
Premier Blaine Higgs, MLA  
Premier Tim Houston, MLA  
Premier Dennis King, MLA  
Premier Andrew Furey, MHA  
Premier Sandy Silver, MLA  
Premier Caroline Cochrane, MLA  
Premier P.J. Akeeagok, MLA