Answering the Wake-up Call: CMA’s Public Health Action Plan

CMA's Public Health Action Plan

Submission to the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health
June 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The public health system in Canada is the foundation of our community, and has been the butt of criticism for its performance in the SARS crisis. There has been a call for the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) to provide a clear and comprehensive public health system vision and roadmap for policymakers. In response, the CMA has developed a Public Health Action Plan to address the critical needs of our health system.

This plan is a comprehensive framework that includes the following key areas:

1. Health systems, system funding and performance
2. Health care and patient safety
3. Population health, health equity, public health

The plan outlines strategies and recommendations to improve the public health system in Canada, including:

- Strengthening surveillance and response to emerging threats
- Increasing public health capacity and infrastructure
- Enhancing communication and coordination among health agencies
- Investing in public health research and education
- Promoting health equity and reducing health disparities

The CMA's Public Health Action Plan is a strategic roadmap for policymakers and health leaders to guide the development of a strengthened public health system in Canada.

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