Study on Canada’s pandemic preparedness: CMA’s Presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public health system is the foundation of our community health. It is the framework upon which all health care and health promotion are built. It ensures the provision of the services which we all expect. In essence, it is the blueprint upon which optimal health outcomes can be achieved.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) has a long-standing interest in public health and public health issues. CMA is proud to play a leadership role in promoting and supporting the health of Canadians and to promote the health of the community. CMA believes that the health of our community is a basic human right and a fundamental principle of health care.

Public health is integral to the effective functioning of any nation. It is the foundation upon which health care is delivered. Without effective public health, health care is unsustainable.

CMA strongly supports the importance of public health in the context of health care reform. CMA recognizes the need for a integrated, comprehensive and co-ordinated public health system that is accountable to the people it serves. CMA also recognizes the need for a public health system that is responsive to the needs of all Canadians, including those living in poverty, seniors, indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities.

CMA is committed to working with all levels of government to ensure that public health is an integral part of health care reform. CMA is also committed to working with other organizations to ensure that public health is a priority in the context of health care reform.