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

CMA submission to the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health

June 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public health system in Canada is a framework of community action for the prevention and control of communicable diseases that weaves together the efforts of public health professionals, the health sector and the general public. Public health systems in Canada are organized in a myriad of ways that reflect federal/provincial/territorial, local, and indigenous jurisdictions.

The Canadian Medical Association, in response to the SARS public health emergency, has developed a strategy to address the health-related needs of the public generated by SARS. This strategy focuses on changing the public health system in Canada to protect and promote health. The CMA has taken the following steps to address these needs.

Health systems, system funding and performance
Health care and patient safety
Population health, health equity, public health

Documents