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

CMA is deeply concerned by the apparent lack of preparedness and action that has been taken in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. CMA commends the federal government and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for their leadership in developing a national emergency preparedness and response strategy. CMA supports ongoing initiatives to improve the nation's public health status and capacity.

CMA urges the federal government to prioritize public health in the forthcoming federal budget. Public health systems require substantial and stable funding to support evidence-based programs and initiatives.

CMA recommends the following measures to improve public health in Canada:

1. Strengthen the leadership of the Public Health Agency of Canada.
2. Increase funding for public health programs.
3. Develop a national plan for emergency preparedness and response.
4. Enhance the integration of public health with other health systems.
5. Improve public health research and surveillance.

CMA looks forward to working with the federal government and its partners to implement these recommendations.

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association