Health Care Coverage for Migrants: An Open Letter to the Canadian Federal Government

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Health Care Coverage for Migrants: An Open Letter to the Canadian Federal Government

To: All political parties and Cabinet ministers responsible for health and social services

Health care coverage for all Canadians is a right that must be respected and maintained in line with the Declaration of Universal human and civil rights and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is also in line with Canada’s international human rights obligations. The failure to extend health coverage to all migrants puts the health, well-being and rights of Canadian migrants at risk and is contrary to the principles of a just and fair society.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) submits the following recommendations to address this critical issue:

1. The federal government should conduct a comprehensive review of the current health care coverage for migrants and develop a plan to extend health coverage to all migrants.

2. The federal government should ensure that migrants have access to timely and affordable health care services, regardless of their immigration status.

3. The federal government should ensure that migrants have access to basic health services, such as primary care, mental health care, and emergency care.

4. The federal government should ensure that migrants have access to health care services in their own language.

5. The federal government should consider providing financial assistance to migrants who cannot afford to pay for health care services.

6. The federal government should work with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that migrants have access to health care services in a timely and efficient manner.

Health care coverage for all Canadians is a fundamental right that must be respected and maintained. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) calls on the federal government to act now to ensure that all migrants have access to timely and affordable health care services.

CMA, December 2018

References:


Endorsed by:

- The Canadian Medical Association
- The Canadian Nurses Association
- The Canadian Public Health Association
- The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is an umbrella organization representing more than 58,000 physicians and medical students from across Canada. The CMA is dedicated to serving the patients of Canada by promoting excellent and accessible health care, by advocating for evidence-based public health policies, and by ensuring the highest standards of medical education, research, and practice.