June 22, 2022

Honorable [Name]
Prime Minister
[Prime Minister's Office]

Subject: CMA Letter to the Council of the Federation regarding the Council of the Federation meeting and Canada’s health funding priorities (health workforce, primary care, labour mobility)

Dear [Name],

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), a member of the Council of Canada’s Health Care System, to express our support for the upcoming meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Health Ministers and the Council of the Federation. We would like to raise several critical issues related to the health workforce, primary care, and labour mobility that are of utmost importance to ensure the sustainability of our health systems.

1. **Health Workforce**
   - There is a growing concern about the availability of healthcare professionals, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Our members have reported difficulties in attracting and retaining doctors, nurses, and other health professionals.
   - We recommend taking proactive steps to recruit and retain healthcare workers, including providing incentives and support for educational institutions.

2. **Primary Care**
   - Access to primary care is a key determinant of health outcomes. However, shortages in primary care services, particularly in rural and remote areas, are causing delays in patient care.
   - We advocate for increased investment in primary care infrastructure and the establishment of collaborative models of care that can address these challenges.

3. **Labour Mobility**
   - Migration of healthcare professionals between provinces is crucial to ensure equitable access to healthcare services. However, the current system of health-care-related protection measures is complex and often discourages cross-border mobility.
   - We call for the simplification of these measures to facilitate the movement of healthcare professionals and optimize the allocation of human resources.

In conclusion, we believe that addressing these issues is essential to the ongoing success of our health-care system. We look forward to discussing these matters in the upcoming meeting of the Council of the Federation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association