


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

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13940>

POLICY TYPE	Policy endorsement
DATE	2018-12-15
TOPICS	Population health, health equity, public health Health systems, system funding and performance Ethics and medical professionalism

## Documents



**Health Care Coverage for Migrants:  
An Open Letter to the Canadian Federal Government** December 2018  
Sign here: <https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13940>

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
The Honourable Ginette P. Taylor, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Ahmed D. Hassan, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
CC: Mr. Dariusz Pionek, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health

Dear Prime Minister, Trudeau & Ministers Taylor and Hassan,

We are writing to you today as members of the health community to urge your action on a crucial matter pertaining to health and human rights. You will no doubt be aware that the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) recently issued a [landmark opinion](#) condemning Canada for denying access to essential health care on the basis of immigration status based on the case of Nell Toudreau.

Nell is a 49-year-old woman from Grenada who has been living in Canada since 1999, and who suffered significant negative health consequences as a result of being denied access to essential health care services. The UNHRC's decision condemns Canada's existing discriminatory policies, and finds Canada to be in violation of both the right to life, as well as the right to equality and freedom from discrimination.

Based on its review of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), the UNHRC has declared that Canada must provide Nell with adequate compensation for the significant harm she suffered. As Nell, they have called on Canada to report on its review of national legislation within a 180-day period, in order to ensure that regular migrants have access to essential health care to prevent a reasonably foreseeable risk that can result in loss of life. The United Nations Special Rapporteur has urged for the same, [calls on the government](#) to protect health-related rights to life, security of the person, and equality of individuals and groups in situations of vulnerability.

Nell is one of an [estimated half million people in Ontario alone](#) who are denied access to health coverage and care on the basis of their immigration status, putting their health at risk. As members of Canada's health community, we are appalled by the details of the case as well as its broad implications, and call on the government to:

1. Comply with the UNHRC's order to review existing laws and policies regarding health care coverage for regular migrants.
2. Ensure appropriate resource allocation, so that all people in Canada are provided universal and equitable access to health care services, regardless of immigration status.
3. Provide Nell Toudreau with adequate compensation for the significant harm she has suffered as a result of not receiving essential health care services.

For more information on this issue, please see our background here: <https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13940>.

Sincerely,  
Arvin Aggarwal MD, Internal Medicine Resident, University of Toronto, Toronto ON  
Nisha Kaural, BSc, MD Candidate, McMaster University, Hamilton ON  
Michaela Breen, MD, Psychiatrist, Toronto ON  
Rishi Goel, MD, Family Physician, Toronto ON

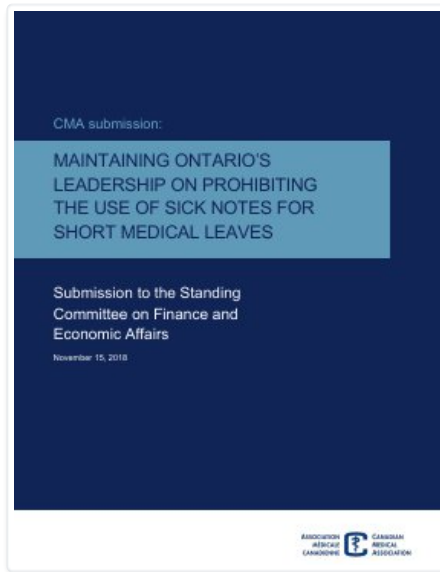
# Maintaining Ontario's leadership on prohibiting the use of sick notes for short medical leaves

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13934>

POLICY TYPE	Parliamentary submission
DATE	2018-11-15
TOPICS	Physician practice, compensation, forms Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents

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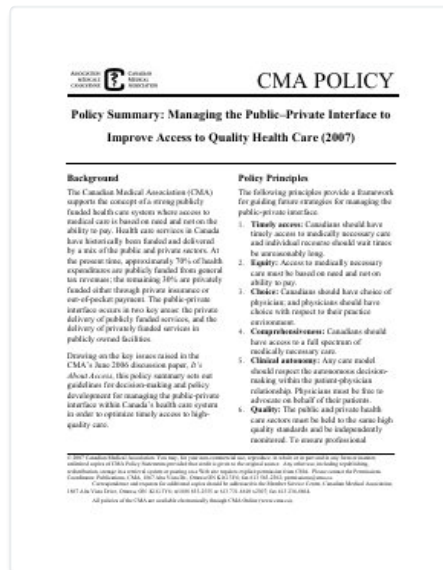


# Policy Summary: Managing the Public-Private Interface to Improve Access to Quality Health Care

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy8826>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2007-05-29
TOPICS	Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents



# It's Still About Access – Medicare Plus: CMA Policy Statement July 2007

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy8828>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2007-05-29
TOPICS	Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents

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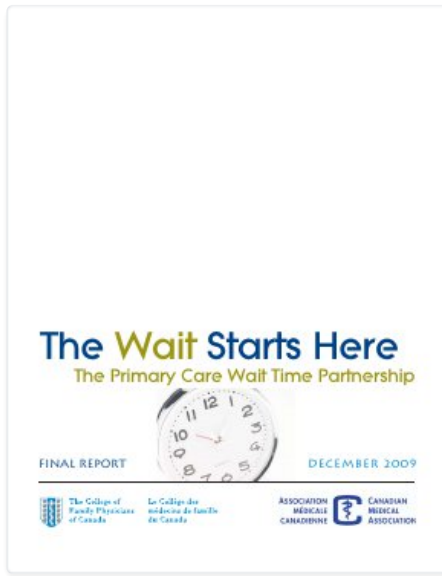
# The Wait Starts Here: Final Report of the Primary Care Wait Time Partnership

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy9705>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2009-10-03
TOPICS	Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents

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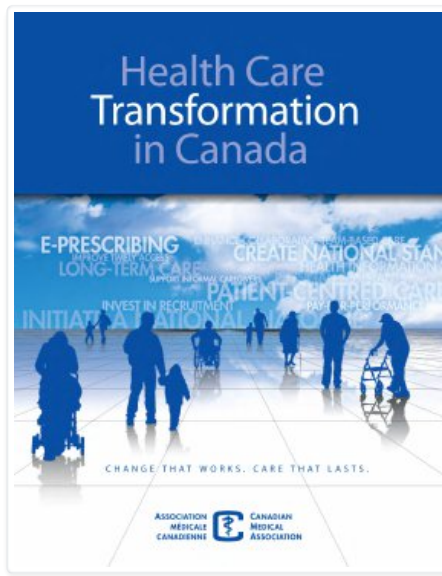
# Health Care Transformation in Canada: Change that Works, Care that Lasts

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy9837>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2010-07-13
TOPICS	Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents

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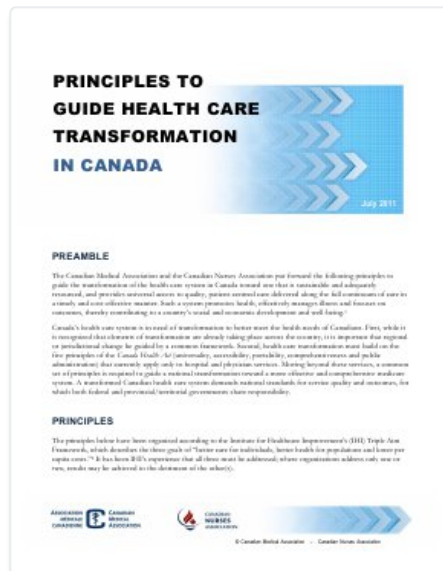


# Joint position statement: Principles to guide health care transformation in Canada

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy10218>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2011-07-27
REPLACES	PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION IN CANADA
TOPICS	Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents



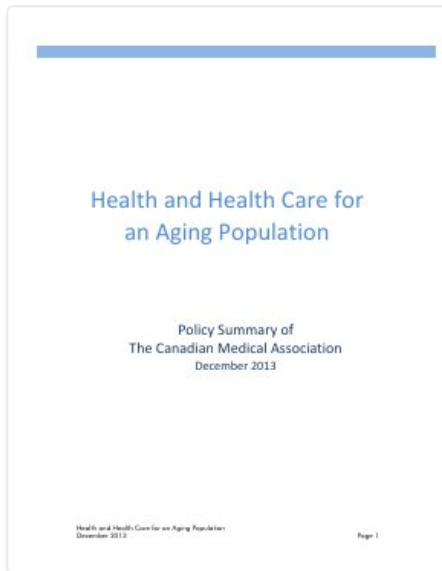
# Health and health care for an aging population

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11061>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2013-12-07
REPLACES	PD00-03 - Principles for medical care of older persons
TOPICS	Health care and patient safety Health systems, system funding and performance

## Documents

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# Ensuring equitable access to health care: Strategies for governments, health system planners, and the medical profession

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy11062>

POLICY TYPE	Policy document
LAST REVIEWED	2018-03-03
DATE	2013-12-07
TOPICS	Health systems, system funding and performance Population health, health equity, public health

## Documents

