

# Federal measures to recognize the significant contributions of Canada's front-line health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

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## Documents

**ASSOCIATION MÉDICALE CANADIENNE** **CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION** **HEAL**  
Healthcare Excellence and Leadership

June 2, 2020

Hon. Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Finance  
Finance Canada  
<http://www.policysbase.ca>

Hon. Patty Haddo, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health  
Health Canada  
[patty.haddo@canada.ca](http://patty.haddo@canada.ca)

**Re: Federal measures to recognize the significant contributions of Canada's front-line health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Dear Ministers Morneau and Haddo:

On behalf of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and HEAL's member organizations, representing 450,000 health care workers in Canada, we are writing to you with recommendations for new federal measures to support the financial hardship and risks posed to front-line health care workers (FLHCW) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To begin, we strongly support the measures the federal government has taken to date to mitigate the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. However, given the unique circumstances that FLHCWs face, additional measures are required to acknowledge their role, the risks being posed to themselves and their families, and the financial burden they have taken on through it. All FLHCWs face numerous challenges trying to carry out their life-saving work during these incredibly difficult times and they deserve to be recognized for their significant contributions.

In such, we are recommending that the federal government implement the following new measures for all FLHCWs:

- An income tax deduction for FLHCWs put at risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, in recognition of their heroic efforts.** All FLHCWs providing in-person patient care during the pandemic would be eligible for this new designated amount against their income earned. This would be included as the deduction provided to members of the Canadian Armed Forces serving in warlike and high-risk regions.
- A new legislation to support the families of FLHCWs who die in the course of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic or who die as a result of an occupational illness or psychological impairment related to the work.** The grant would also apply to cases in which the death of a FLHCW's family member is attributable to the FLHCW's work in responding to the pandemic. We are recommending that access to the Bereaved Grant program, via similar means, be granted to FLHCWs and their family members.
- A temporary emergency accommodation for deduction for FLHCWs who incur additional accommodation costs as well as a home renovation credit in recognition of the need for FLHCWs to adhere to social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to their family members.** We are recommending that FLHCWs receiving income while working in a health care facility or public health unit or in a capacity related thereto (e.g. paramedic or personal care) be eligible for the deduction and credit.

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