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Member of Parliament
Davenport

AN UPDATE ON HEALTH CARE

OCTOBER 2023

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Davenport friends and neighbours:
amis et voisins de Davenport:

Canada's universal, accessible, and publicly funded health care system is a point of pride for all Canadians, but the system is in crisis, and I'm writing to tell you about the measures the federal government is taking to help fix the situation.

For months now we have heard heart-breaking and worrying stories of long wait times for surgery, health care workers buckling under the strain, overloaded emergency rooms, lack of adequate mental health services and what many feel are more elements of privatization creeping into our public health care system.

Earlier this year, **the federal government announced a historic \$198.6 billion investment over 10 years to improve health care services for Canadians, with \$73.97 billion allocated to Ontario.** This funding included an immediate, unconditional \$2 billion Canada Health Transfer (CHT) top-up to address ongoing pressures on the health care system. Our government followed the recommendation of the Canadian Medical Association for a 5% increase to the CHT to ensure the sustainability and viability of our system.

In addition, **Ontario signed a Bilateral Agreement with the federal government for additional spending to address shared health care priorities.** These

priorities include additional support for Ontarians to access doctors and family health teams, increased wages for health care workers, more funding for mental health, including for substance use and addiction services, and a secure electronic health information system shared among health care professionals. **This Bilateral Agreement establishes clear reporting metrics to track spending and hold Ontario accountable for implementation.**

The federal government transfers the funding to provinces and territories on the condition that they will follow the principles of the Canada Health Care Act in delivering health care services. Provinces are also responsible for developing innovative solutions to meet democratic changes and increases in demand for services.

On the other side of this communication piece, there is more information on these investments. If you have any questions regarding federal health care funding kindly email me.

As always, Davenport, it is a true honour and pleasure to serve you.

Julie Dzerowicz
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With First Portuguese Canadian Cultural Centre celebrating the visit of the President of Portugal Rebelo de Sousa at LiUNA Hall



At Henderson Brewing's annual Sterling Road Block Party visiting the House of Anansi-Groundwood Books booth



National Health Care Investments

Factsheet

Earlier this year, the federal government announced substantial, long-term health care funding of **\$198.6 billion over 10 years with \$74 billion going to Ontario**. This investment in health care includes \$46 billion in new funding and enhances health care services for Canadians. This funding is in agreement with the provinces and territories **which are responsible for delivering health care services to Canadians** and will provide Canadians with improved access to high-quality family health care, a supported health workforce, equitable mental health services, shared electronic health information, and access to home care and safe long-term care so Canadians can age safely and live in dignity. **For more information on health investments visit my website or use the QR code below.**

What's Included in the \$198.6 B

- ▶ An **immediate, unconditional \$2 billion Canada Health Transfer top-up to address real, urgent pressures** in emergency rooms, operating rooms, and pediatric hospitals with Ontario receiving \$776 million of this top-up
- ▶ A **5% increase to the Canada Health Transfer** for the next 5 years, with the last payment becoming a permanent funding increase—matching the recommendation made by the

Canadian Medical Association in its 2022 pre-budget submission

- ▶ \$1.7 billion over five years to support **wage increases for personal support workers**
- ▶ \$2 billion over 10 years to address the unique challenges Indigenous people face accessing care
- ▶ \$150 million over five years to cover medical travel and other costs of delivering care in the territories

Funding Conditions

- ◆ Premiers must continue to adhere to the Canada Health Act principles of public funding, accessibility, universality, etc.
- ◆ All funding must only be used for health care spending
- ◆ Provinces will not reduce their contribution levels to Medicare

Bilateral Agreement with Ontario

In addition to the \$198.6 billion over 10 years funding, **Ontario signed a supplementary agreement with the federal government worth \$8.4 billion to advance four key areas of shared health priorities:**

- ✓ Increased access to family health teams, including doctors
- ✓ Better supports for all health care workers
- ✓ Access to timely, equitable, and quality mental health, substance use and addictions services
- ✓ Access to electronic health information shared with health professionals that patients consult

The Bilateral Agreement **includes a 3-year action plan that details targets, timelines, and common indicators related to shared health priorities** between the federal level and Ontario. The Ontario government also agrees to collect, use and share health information with the federal government for accountability reasons and to better inform us on health care progress based on common headline indicators.

Ontario commits to an integrated, inclusive approach to investments in health service teams, the health workforce, and data and digital tools that will help to meet the health and mental health needs of Canadians.

Mental Health Supports

Our federal government has made it a priority to invest in mental health services for Canadians. Prior to the new health agreements this year, we have provided over \$6.5 billion in additional mental health supports. In 2017 we committed \$5 billion for **mental health and addiction services** along with a commitment of \$1.5 billion for **culturally appropriate mental health care** for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

In July 2023 we announced a **national suicide hotline** with a \$158.4 million investment in the **Wellness Together initiative**. Starting November 30, 2023, you can **call or text 988 anytime for immediate support**.

Mental Health Resources

If you or anyone you know is struggling with mental health here are some available resources:

Talk Suicide Canada: 833-456-4566 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

- Connect with a mental health professional** one-on-one:
- youth, call 888-668-6810 or text WELLNESS to 686868
 - adults, call 866-585-0445 or text WELLNESS to 741741

For a **full list of available mental health supports** visit:

- ▶ canada.ca/en/public-health/services/mental-health-services/mental-health-get-help.html

Reducing the Shortage of Family Doctors and Nurses

Canada will work with Ontario to streamline foreign credential recognition for internationally educated health professionals and to make it easier and quicker for skilled health care workers to become permanent residents in Canada through the **"Express Entry"** immigration stream. We are also helping address the shortage of family doctors by introducing **student loan forgiveness for doctors and nurses** and have increased forgiveness by 50%, up to \$30,000 for nurses and \$60,000 for doctors.



Get more health info here