

## Why do we need federal investment in hospital infrastructure?

Canada's healthcare facilities are a vital part of our national infrastructure—providing essential health services, promoting economic growth, providing social gain, utilizing clean energy solutions, and combating climate change. When disaster strikes, our healthcare facilities need to respond effectively and efficiently, meeting the needs of society at its most vulnerable moments.

1. **Crumbling Buildings:** Canada's hospitals are worth \$160 billion, but are facing accumulated deferred maintenance costs of ~\$28 billion. To preserve their ability to deliver the highest quality of care, we must address this issue.
2. **Jobs:** Investments in health infrastructure create a significant number of jobs and stimuli for local, provincial and national economies.
3. **Environmental Stewardship:** Healthcare facilities operate 24/7 and have a significant environmental footprint. Modern structures have cleaner and more efficient waste, heating and cooling systems.
4. **Climate Change:** Our healthcare facilities must be resilient in the face of extreme weather conditions. Other countries have written this into law. While hoping for the best, we must be prepared for the worst.
5. **Infection Control:** In an era of antimicrobial resistance, modernized infrastructure guards against unnecessary infection. New facilities allow for private rooms, accessible sinks, and safer ventilation.
6. **Better Integration of Care:** The way we deliver healthcare is changing. New facilities are being built to promote quality, integration, and the seamless transition of patients from one point of care to the next.
7. **Patient Morale:** No one likes to be in a hospital. A new understanding of patient centered care allows us to build facilities that offer healing environments, clinically, socially and spiritually.
8. **Patient Safety:** Modern infrastructure allows us to minimize errors, such as design features that allow the monitoring of multiple patients and flooring and railing designs that prevent or reduce falls.
9. **Better Workplaces:** Modern healthcare infrastructure incorporates design considerations that inspire productivity and satisfaction in the workplace, reduce physical stress, and permit focus.
10. **Community Support:** Local communities raise a significant share of hospital construction costs. It is time for the federal government to support their efforts.



## Infrastructure Projects by HealthCareCAN Members

### Summary (Preliminary Results as of 26-02-16 – Additional Responses Forthcoming)

HealthCareCAN is currently surveying its members on the number of short-term “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects. To date, the survey has revealed the following results:

- 444 projects, from 26 organizations in 8 provinces, were identified
- The total value of the projects stood at \$5.9 billion
- 9% of the projects are new buildings and expansions, 91% qualify as repairs and/or retrofits
- The primary purpose(s) of the projects is/are broken down below:

Projects by Purpose	# (%) of all Projects	\$ of Projects
Repairs and Energy Retrofits	363 (82%)	\$2,090,292,599
New Buildings	42 (9%)	\$2,388,100,000
Expansions	39 (9%)	\$1,502,577,549
<b>Total</b>	<b>444 (100%)</b>	<b>\$5,980,950,148</b>

Illustrative Projects	# (%) of all Projects	\$ of Projects
Environmental/Energy Efficiency	264 (59%)	\$999,768,315
Acute Care	114 (26%)	\$3,624,381,833
Primary Care	25 (6%)	\$55,150,000
Long Term Care/Post-Acute Care/Palliative Care	17 (4%)	\$750,700,000
Mental/Community Health	8 (2%)	\$76,450,000
Research and/or Teaching	6 (1%)	\$43,300,000
Patient Safety and/or Infection Control	4 (1%)	\$250,000,000
Paediatrics/Women's Health	4 (.5%)	\$78,200,000
Outpatient/Ambulatory Care	2 (.5%)	\$103,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>444 (100%)</b>	<b>\$5,980,950,148</b>

### Recommendation

The New Building Canada Fund is an important source of infrastructure funding for Canadian communities, but healthcare facilities are excluded. Allowing hospitals to compete costs nothing extra and allows the federal government the opportunity to assess the full range of crucial infrastructure that is required nationally. Over time, we would ask the federal government to consider a healthcare infrastructure fund similar to the Hospital Construction Grants program of 1948 and the Health Resource Fund of 1966.

For more information, please visit [www.healthcarecan.ca](http://www.healthcarecan.ca).