Build
a more inclusive, equitable and resilient heath system

To improve healthcare workers' and patients' experiences and respond to the needs of Canadians now and in the future.

Health workforce

Canada's healthcare workers are exhausted, stressed and burned out from the pandemic. They have taken care of us, now it is time we take care of them.

100,300

job vacancies in healthcare and social assistance at the end of 2020, a record level and up 57% from the previous year.[1]

Thousands

of healthcare workers have left the health sector due to the pandemic, with more planning to leave once the pandemic is over.

Mental health

40%

of Canadians indicate their mental health has deteriorated since March 2020.[2]

66% & 70%

of youth two to five years old and six to 18 years old, respectively, experienced declining mental health since March 2020.[3]

33%

of healthcare workers report fair to poor mental health.[4]

77%

of healthcare workers working in direct contact with COVID-19 reported worsening mental health compared to pre-pandemic.[5]

Resilience and equity: Impacts of COVID-19 on the health system

16M

Medical procedures delayed in Ontario alone.[6]

$13B & 3.5 yrs.

The estimated cost and time to clear Ontario's procedure backlog.[7]

5.5% - 5.7%

Projected annual increase in health spending due to COVID-19 in Canada over the long-term.[8]

- COVID-19 demonstrated how unprepared Canada was to deal with a health emergency and highlighted the need to make sure we are prepared for the next one.

- The pandemic exposed and worsened health inequities for certain demographic groups, including black people, Indigenous Peoples, and people of colour, due to structural racism and discrimination present in our health and social systems.

Indigenous health

- High-profile reports examining systemic racism in the healthcare system have starkly revealed to everyone in Canada the inequities Indigenous Peoples have been dealing with for decades.

- Tackling systemic racism against Indigenous Peoples in our health and social systems must be a priority for all levels of government, and solutions must be Indigenous-led.

- Implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and solutions put forward by Indigenous Peoples to eliminate the gaps in health services and outcomes must be acted on immediately and financially supported by all governments.

How can we better support the health workforce and create a more resilient, inclusive health system?

- Develop a national health workforce planning strategy to tackle the shortage of health professionals; address the factors that contribute to stress, anxiety and burnout among healthcare workers; and improve diversity and representation in the health system.

- Improve availability and access to mental health supports for healthcare workers and Canadians.

- Prioritize and support Indigenous Peoples, black people, people of colour, LGBTQIA2S+ people, people with disabilities and others in developing and implementing solutions to address inequities in our health and social systems.

- Increase health transfers to provinces and territories to ensure consistent, long-term funding for healthcare that keeps pace with increasing costs, including from COVID-19; inflation; population growth; population health status; and population aging.