



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920
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Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
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September 14, 2021

HealthcareCAN

Via email: bcarlone@healthcarecan.ca

Dear M. Cloutier,

Thank you for your letter dated September 2, 2021. The Liberal Party of Canada is proud of the track record of our Liberal government in working to improve our public, universal health care system and are committed to continuing to invest to ensure Canadians receive the care they need.

From day one of the pandemic, the Liberal government made significant investments to ensure Canadians could get the health care they need. Eight out of every ten dollars spent during the pandemic came from the federal government. We have made significant investments to support the provinces and territories in delivering health care, including through the \$19 billion Safe Restart Agreement, as well as two top-ups to the Canada Health Transfer, including \$4 billion earlier this summer. We also provided \$3 billion to the provinces and territories in emergency wage boosts for essential workers.

We are committed to protecting access to universal, public health care for all Canadians, which is why we are prepared to invest more than \$28 billion over the next five years. This will inject significant capacity into the health system, in order to support hardworking health care professionals and support the elimination of the backlog of health services. We will support provinces and territories to hire up to 7,500 doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners in recognition of the significant shortage faced in many jurisdictions. We will also make it easier for nurses who choose to practice in rural areas, by increasing debt forgiveness under the Canada Student Loan Program from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

We know that the mental health impacts of COVID-19 have been felt significantly amongst health care workers, which is why we invested \$100 million in Budget 2021 in mental health supports for populations impacted by COVID-19, including health care workers.

A re-elected Liberal government will continue to put the needs of health care workers first by prioritizing the development of a national health human resources strategy. We will work with the provinces and territories as well as key stakeholders to develop an action plan to ensure we have the workforce needed to maintain our universal public health care system, including by exploring issues such as a national



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licensure system for health professionals.

Over the last six years, the Liberal government has made significant investments in Canadian research, innovation, and talent. After nearly a decade under attack by the previous Conservative government, we restored funding and integrity back to our scientific ecosystem. We know that the spirit of innovation requires more than just tax cuts. It requires a belief in science, ambitious partnerships between government, academia and the private sector, and a plan to invest in the most promising and innovative ideas out there.

That is why we prioritized investing in research, including over \$1 billion in more than 400 COVID-19 research projects across the country, as well as \$53 million to develop a COVID-19 Variants of Concern Strategy. We also invested \$250 million in Budget 2021 over three years, starting in 2021-22, to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to implement a new Clinical Trials Fund. And, in August 2021, we announced that we reached a deal to bring a state-of-the-art biomanufacturing facility to Canada, to rebuild our biomanufacturing sector and ensure Canadians have access to biomedical innovations, manufactured domestically.

To continue this work, a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Invest \$100 million to study the long-term health impacts of COVID-19, including the effects of “long COVID” on different groups, including vulnerable populations and children.
- Add 1,000 Canada Research Chairs to help attract and retain top talent at Canadian universities and support graduate research, with a focus on improving gender and racial equity among Canadian faculty, promoting interdisciplinary research, and reinforcing Canada’s world leading capabilities in life sciences and bio-medical research.
- Establish a \$75 million a year fund for colleges and universities to help commercialize leading research, including identifying and securing patent rights for research done within their institutions and connecting researchers with people and businesses to help put these innovations into action and grow our economy.
- Draw on Canada’s contribution to mRNA science and vaccines to introduce a new \$100 million a year fund to pursue moonshot research into high-impact illnesses where a vaccine may be possible.
- Establish a Canada Advanced Research Projects Agency (CARPA) as a public-private bridge for research that helps develop and maintain Canadian-led technology and capabilities in high-impact areas, with an initial endowment of \$2 billion.

We know that Canada has the talent and innovative capacity to develop and commercialize cutting edge



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technologies, including in the health sector. That's why we will continue to invest in Canadian researchers and innovators, so that we can build a recovery that works for everyone.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Liberal Party of Canada