

## **Canadians vote with their hearts and for healthcare**

Findings from several recent public opinion polls once again confirm that adequately funding healthcare services remains a top issue that will influence the voting choice of Canadians during this federal election.

Further, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc with healthcare in Canada. Our healthcare workforce is stretched to the breaking point. Vital medical procedures and treatments are being delayed. We do not yet have a national strategy to provide timely, standardized, high-quality long-term, home and community care for every Canadian who needs it. Yet, with less than a week from voting day, we continue to wait for a clear, coherent federal vision to improve the health of Canadians, and secure a sustainable health system.

During the election campaign HealthCareCAN has been pressing parties and candidates seeking election to:

- 1) Ramp up Canadian health research and biosciences through consistent, long-term investment.
- 2) Reimagine older adult care through improved home, community and long-term care services.
- 3) Build a national health workforce planning strategy.
- 4) Modernize Canada's health infrastructure to better support virtual care and tackle climate change.
- 5) Increase federal health transfers to provinces and territories to improve access to critically needed services such as mental health care and supports for children and adults.

There has been no greater disruptive force in health than COVID-19. If Canada is to emerge stronger from the challenges thrown at us by the pandemic – and be ready for the next one – renewing healthcare and health research system must be priorities for the federal government post-election.

Paul-Émile Cloutier  
President and CEO

*HealthCareCAN is the national voice of healthcare organizations and hospitals across Canada. We foster informed and continuous, results-oriented discovery and innovation across the continuum of healthcare.*

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