

# Modernize health infrastructure

As part of Canada's approach to improving healthcare, supporting virtual care and tackling climate change.

Healthcare facilities are among the oldest public infrastructure in use today

48% built > 50 years ago<sup>1</sup>

70% in cities built > 50 years ago<sup>2</sup>

Over the last 20 years, Canadian capital investment in health infrastructure has fluctuated, with a noted decline in recent years despite overall healthcare spending increasingly steadily over this same time.<sup>3</sup> This suggests that capital investments are being sacrificed to fund operational expenses, and the reality is that the need to continue redirecting funds to patient care will continue as Canada's population grows and ages.

## Digital health infrastructure & virtual care benefits

✓  
Convenience

✓  
Removal of barriers to access, like time and travel

✓  
Allows for remote patient monitoring

✓  
Increased efficiency and reduced operating costs

According to Canada Health Infoway<sup>4</sup>, in 2019, virtual care:

Saved Canadians and the economy 11.5 million hours

Reduced CO2 emissions by 120,000 metric tonnes

If Canada sustains virtual visits at 50% of primary care visits, Canada Health Infoway projects annual savings of 103 million hours for Canadians and the economy and an annual reduction of 325,000 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions.

## What do we need to modernize Canada's health system?


Increase capital investments in healthcare to a minimum of 0.6% of GDP to better align with Canada's OECD counterparts.


## Impact of COVID-19

- Exposed the fragility of Canada's healthcare infrastructure, including how outdated infrastructure puts the health of Canadians at risk.
- Accelerated the adoption of virtual care, which Canadians embraced.
- Increased cyber threats in the health sector.

## Health sector's environmental impact

 3rd highest per capita GHG emissions from healthcare in the world.<sup>5</sup>

 4% of Canada's total emissions.<sup>6</sup>

 11% of non-business, non-household energy use in Canada.<sup>7</sup>

## Did you know...?

A 2020 survey of HealthCareCAN members identified \$4.6 billion in pending infrastructure projects.