



CANADIAN
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February 18, 2016

The Hon. William Francis Morneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
By e-mail: fin.2016pbc-cpb2016.fin@canada.ca

Dear Minister Morneau,

As part of your pre-budget consultations, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions is pleased to submit the following documents for your consideration: *Towards a Health and Social Accord* and a complimentary *Rationale*.

These documents are the culmination of a process in which the CFNU consulted with 50 national health care stakeholders and outlines key priorities that the CFNU believes should be considered for inclusion in the 2016-2017 Federal Budget.

Canada's nurses appreciate that the federal government has committed to negotiate a new accord with provincial and territorial governments, as noted during the 2015 Election and in the subsequent mandate letter from the Prime Minister to the Minister of Health. Minister Morneau, the CFNU believes it is very important that your government follows up the election promises with a clear fiscal commitment to this process, and that these commitments are outlined in the upcoming Budget.

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions recommends that the federal government work with provincial and territorial governments to set a strong course forward for Canada by implementing a Health and Social Accord that includes:

- Stable Federal Health Care Funding (to a minimum of 25% by 2025)
- Coordinated Health Human Resources Planning
- A National Prescription Drug Plan (Pharmacare)
- A Canadian Strategy for Healthy Aging
- Improved Access to Health Services in Home and Community Settings
- Improved Access to Mental Health Services

Investing in our public health care system is a priority that benefits all Canadians. Canada's nurses request that these recommendations be given strong consideration in the 2016-2017 Federal Budget so that it is clear that the federal government is committed to being a strong partner in health care.


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One final key recommendation that we would urge be part of the upcoming Budget is commitment to forming a short-term Prime Ministerial Roundtable on Health and Social Funding. Part of the mandate would be focused on devising a plan to increase the envelope of the Canada Health Transfer so that the federal government's share represents a minimum of 25% of all health care spending by provinces and territories, as requested by the Council of the Federation.

Minister, these submitted documents reflect a commitment towards a 'Health in All Policies' approach, and the CFNU urges you and your government to integrate this approach into the federal budget and all federal policies and priorities. In the absence of clear federal commitments and collaboration, provinces and territories are struggling to adapt their health care systems alone, a piecemeal process that threatens both the integrity of the system as well as patient safety.

I look forward to working with you in the future to support our public health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda Silas', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Linda Silas, President

Cc.: Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)
Suzie Cadieux, Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance