



CANADIAN FEDERATION  
OF NURSES UNIONS  
LA FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE  
DES SYNDICATS D'INFIRMIÈRES  
ET INFIRMIERS



November 22, 2022

The Honourable Heather Stefanson, M.L.A.  
Chair, Council of the Federation  
Premier of Manitoba

**Re: Meeting request to discuss Canada's healthcare system**

Dear Premier Stefanson,

On behalf of the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU), the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), and the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), we are writing to request an urgent meeting with you, as Chair of the Council of the Federation, to discuss the sustainability of Canada's healthcare system and the health worker crisis that is affecting every region of our country.

Our organizations, and many others, are disappointed with the results of the federal and provincial/territorial Health Ministers' Meeting held in Vancouver, BC on Nov. 7 and 8. In particular, healthcare workers and the Canadians we serve are concerned that, without immediate action and collaboration from our political leaders, the meaningful, long-term solutions to address the ongoing crisis across all 13 provincial and territorial health systems will not move forward.

While provinces and territories have unique considerations, a report commissioned by the CMA and prepared by Deloitte shows that governments have more in common than they may realize: provincial and territorial health budgets also align closely with federal health funding priorities. Reports like this, and the CFNU's newly commissioned report *Sustaining Nursing in Canada*, should serve as starting points for governments to implement solutions to address health worker shortages and begin the process of stabilizing and rebuilding health systems in Canada.

We believe it's time for all levels of government to work together on a pan-Canadian action plan to redefine health care across the country. Patients and caregivers continue to suffer as doctors, nurses and other health workers burn out and leave their professions; wait lists grow and emergency departments close due to staffing shortages. Canada can deliver better outcomes for patients and ensure they can receive the care they need, when they need it.

We agree that increased health funding via the Canada Health Transfer is needed. However, the response of provincial/territorial governments to the health care crisis should not be delayed as the dialogue with the federal government on health funding continues. Solving this crisis requires immediate collaboration between governments and key health stakeholders to address system priorities and critical needs to begin stabilizing the health system and enabling health workers in their efforts to provide care for Canadians. Patients across Canada need action by governments today.



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CANADIENNE



CANADIAN  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

Canadian  
Nurses  
Association



Association des  
infirmières et infirmiers  
du Canada

Our organizations are eager to collaborate with your governments to support the call for more federal health funding and address the ongoing and escalating crisis. We look forward to the possibility of an urgent meeting. To schedule a meeting or for more information, please contact Lucas Veiga at [lveiga@cna-aicc.ca](mailto:lveiga@cna-aicc.ca).

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Silas, RN, B.Sc.N.  
President  
Canadian Federation of Nurses  
Unions

Alika Lafontaine, BSc, MD,  
FRCPC  
President  
Canadian Medical Association

Dr. Sylvain Brousseau, RN,  
Ph.D. FFMRCISI  
President  
Canadian Nurses Association

CC:

The Hon. Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia and Vice Chair, Council of the Federation  
The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
The Hon. François Legault, Premier of Quebec  
The Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick  
The Hon. David Eby, Premier of British Columbia  
The Hon. Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island  
The Hon. Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan  
The Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta  
The Hon. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador  
The Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Premier of the Northwest Territories  
The Hon. Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon  
The Hon. P.J. Akeeagok, Premier of Nunavut