



Canada's Premiers Seek Federal Party Leaders' Commitment to Increased Health Care Funding

OTTAWA, August 17, 2021 – Ahead of the federal election, Premiers* today released a letter to all federal party leaders asking them to provide a clear and transparent commitment on the issue of health care sustainability.

“Health care is the number one priority of Canadians and they deserve to know that health care services will be there when they need them. Premiers are unified in their request for the federal government to commit to being a stronger financial partner for health care by increasing its share of support through the Canada Health Transfer”, said Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister, Chair of the Council of the Federation.

Provinces and territories currently pay for 78% of health care costs and, if nothing is done, the federal share will continue to decline. Premiers have called on the federal government to immediately increase its share of health care costs from 22% to 35% of total health care spending.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing stresses in Canada's health care system and risks leaving a legacy of longer wait times, and increased mental health and addictions challenges. Provinces and territories have taken extensive steps to manage these challenges, however, on-going, long-term federal support is needed. Premiers are calling upon all federal party leaders to commit to immediate and ongoing increases in the Canada Health Transfer to help address these and other important needs in provincial/territorial health systems.

Canadians can learn more at www.canadaspremiers.ca.

- 30 -

Media enquiries may be directed to:

Olivia Billson

Senior Press Secretary, Office of the Premier
Government of Manitoba
(431) 777-6675
Olivia.Billson@leg.gov.mb.ca

Loretta O'Connor

Executive Director
Council of the Federation Secretariat
(613) 863-8448
Loretta@canadaspremiers.ca

* Nova Scotia's participation has been limited due to a provincial election on August 17, 2021.



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
350 Albert Street, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

AUG 17 2021

Dear Prime Minister, *Justin*

Health care is the number one priority of Canadians and they deserve to know that health care services will be there when they need them. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated strains in provincial and territorial health systems, demonstrating the need for immediate and sustained financial support to carry them into the future. Premiers* write to you today unified in their request for the federal government to commit to being a stronger partner through a major increase in Canada Health Transfer (CHT) funding.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had their surgeries, procedures or diagnostics delayed due to COVID-19. We need to put the services that Canadians value on a more secure and sustainable financial footing to allow provinces and territories to address the key needs in their jurisdictions. This includes, but is not limited to, improvements in the availability of hospital beds, better responding to Canadians' mental health needs, meeting the needs of a growing and aging population, and modernizing our health care systems to keep pace with new drugs and technologies. Provinces and territories are on the front lines of health care and are best placed to determine the needs of their residents. Federal investments must be unconditional to provide maximum flexibility for provinces and territories to invest in their unique health priorities.

Provinces and territories are currently paying for 78% of health care costs and, if nothing is done, the federal share will continue to decline. This is unfair and unsustainable. Premiers have called on the federal government to immediately increase its share of health care costs from 22% to 35% of total health care spending, and to maintain at least this contribution level over time with a minimum annual escalator of 5%. A 35% share of health care costs represents a \$28 billion increase to the CHT in the current fiscal year.

Premiers have been calling for a full federal health funding partner for years, and the situation is now more urgent than ever. As Canadians look to the next federal election, Premiers are asking all federal party leaders to provide a clear and transparent commitment on the issue of healthcare sustainability. To this end, we are asking federal party leaders to provide a written response to each of the following questions:

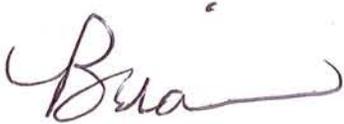
If re-elected, will your government make an immediate financial investment to increase its share of health care funding from 22% to 35% of total health care spending through the unconditional Canada Health Transfer? If re-elected, will your government also commit to maintaining at least this unconditional contribution level over time with a minimum annual Canada Health Transfer escalator of 5%?

* Nova Scotia's participation has been limited due to a provincial election on August 17, 2021.

Premiers are requesting your response by August 31, 2021. Consistent with previous practice, answers from all parties will be published on the website of Canada's Premiers.

This is a critical moment in the history of health care in Canada, and we need a full federal partner to ensure quality care for future generations. We look forward to working together in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bua", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Pallister
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Manitoba

c. All Premiers



The Honourable Erin O'Toole, P.C., C.D., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
Conservative Party of Canada
1720-130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4

AUG 17 2021

Dear Mr. O'Toole, *Erin*

Health care is the number one priority of Canadians and they deserve to know that health care services will be there when they need them. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated strains in provincial and territorial health systems, demonstrating the need for immediate and sustained financial support to carry them into the future. Premiers* write to you today unified in their request for the federal government to commit to being a stronger partner through a major increase in Canada Health Transfer (CHT) funding.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had their surgeries, procedures or diagnostics delayed due to COVID-19. We need to put the services that Canadians value on a more secure and sustainable financial footing to allow provinces and territories to address the key needs in their jurisdictions. This includes, but is not limited to, improvements in the availability of hospital beds, better responding to Canadians' mental health needs, meeting the needs of a growing and aging population, and modernizing our health care systems to keep pace with new drugs and technologies. Provinces and territories are on the front lines of health care and are best placed to determine the needs of their residents. Federal investments must be unconditional to provide maximum flexibility for provinces and territories to invest in their unique health priorities.

Provinces and territories are currently paying for 78% of health care costs and, if nothing is done, the federal share will continue to decline. This is unfair and unsustainable. Premiers have called on the federal government to immediately increase its share of health care costs from 22% to 35% of total health care spending, and to maintain at least this contribution level over time with a minimum annual escalator of 5%. A 35% share of health care costs represents a \$28 billion increase to the CHT in the current fiscal year.

Premiers have been calling for a full federal health funding partner for years, and the situation is now more urgent than ever. As Canadians look to the next federal election, Premiers are asking all federal party leaders to provide a clear and transparent commitment on the issue of healthcare sustainability. To this end, we are asking federal party leaders to provide a written response to each of the following questions:

If elected, will your government make an immediate financial investment to increase its share of health care funding from 22% to 35% of total health care spending through the unconditional Canada Health Transfer? If elected, will your government also commit to maintaining at least this unconditional contribution level over time with a minimum annual Canada Health Transfer escalator of 5%?

* Nova Scotia's participation has been limited due to a provincial election on August 17, 2021.

Premiers are requesting your response by August 31, 2021. Consistent with previous practice, answers from all parties will be published on the website of Canada's Premiers.

This is a critical moment in the history of health care in Canada, and we need a full federal partner to ensure quality care for future generations. We look forward to working together in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Brian Pallister". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'B'.

Brian Pallister
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Manitoba

c. All Premiers



Mr. Jagmeet Singh, M.P.
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
300-279 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5JP

AUG 17 2021

Dear Mr. Singh, *Jagmeet*

Health care is the number one priority of Canadians and they deserve to know that health care services will be there when they need them. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated strains in provincial and territorial health systems, demonstrating the need for immediate and sustained financial support to carry them into the future. Premiers* write to you today unified in their request for the federal government to commit to being a stronger partner through a major increase in Canada Health Transfer (CHT) funding.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had their surgeries, procedures or diagnostics delayed due to COVID-19. We need to put the services that Canadians value on a more secure and sustainable financial footing to allow provinces and territories to address the key needs in their jurisdictions. This includes, but is not limited to, improvements in the availability of hospital beds, better responding to Canadians' mental health needs, meeting the needs of a growing and aging population, and modernizing our health care systems to keep pace with new drugs and technologies. Provinces and territories are on the front lines of health care and are best placed to determine the needs of their residents. Federal investments must be unconditional to provide maximum flexibility for provinces and territories to invest in their unique health priorities.

Provinces and territories are currently paying for 78% of health care costs and, if nothing is done, the federal share will continue to decline. This is unfair and unsustainable. Premiers have called on the federal government to immediately increase its share of health care costs from 22% to 35% of total health care spending, and to maintain at least this contribution level over time with a minimum annual escalator of 5%. A 35% share of health care costs represents a \$28 billion increase to the CHT in the current fiscal year.

Premiers have been calling for a full federal health funding partner for years, and the situation is now more urgent than ever. As Canadians look to the next federal election, Premiers are asking all federal party leaders to provide a clear and transparent commitment on the issue of healthcare sustainability. To this end, we are asking federal party leaders to provide a written response to each of the following questions:

If elected, will your government make an immediate financial investment to increase its share of health care funding from 22% to 35% of total health care spending through the unconditional Canada Health Transfer? If elected, will your government also commit to maintaining at least this unconditional contribution level over time with a minimum annual Canada Health Transfer escalator of 5%?

* Nova Scotia's participation has been limited due to a provincial election on August 17, 2021.

Premiers are requesting your response by August 31, 2021. Consistent with previous practice, answers from all parties will be published on the website of Canada's Premiers.

This is a critical moment in the history of health care in Canada, and we need a full federal partner to ensure quality care for future generations. We look forward to working together in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Pallister". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brian Pallister
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Manitoba

c. All Premiers



Mr. Yves-François Blanchet, M.P.
Leader of the Bloc Québécois
3750 Crémazie Boulevard East, Suite 402
Montréal, QC H2A 1B6

AUG 17 2021

Dear Mr. Blanchet,

Health care is the number one priority of Canadians and they deserve to know that health care services will be there when they need them. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated strains in provincial and territorial health systems, demonstrating the need for immediate and sustained financial support to carry them into the future. Premiers* write to you today unified in their request for the federal government to commit to being a stronger partner through a major increase in Canada Health Transfer (CHT) funding.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had their surgeries, procedures or diagnostics delayed due to COVID-19. We need to put the services that Canadians value on a more secure and sustainable financial footing to allow provinces and territories to address the key needs in their jurisdictions. This includes, but is not limited to, improvements in the availability of hospital beds, better responding to Canadians' mental health needs, meeting the needs of a growing and aging population, and modernizing our health care systems to keep pace with new drugs and technologies. Provinces and territories are on the front lines of health care and are best placed to determine the needs of their residents. Federal investments must be unconditional to provide maximum flexibility for provinces and territories to invest in their unique health priorities.

Provinces and territories are currently paying for 78% of health care costs and, if nothing is done, the federal share will continue to decline. This is unfair and unsustainable. Premiers have called on the federal government to immediately increase its share of health care costs from 22% to 35% of total health care spending, and to maintain at least this contribution level over time with a minimum annual escalator of 5%. A 35% share of health care costs represents a \$28 billion increase to the CHT in the current fiscal year.

Premiers have been calling for a full federal health funding partner for years, and the situation is now more urgent than ever. As Canadians look to the next federal election, Premiers are asking all federal party leaders to provide a clear and transparent commitment on the issue of healthcare sustainability. To this end, we are asking federal party leaders to provide a written response to each of the following questions:

If elected, will your government make an immediate financial investment to increase its share of health care funding from 22% to 35% of total health care spending through the unconditional Canada Health Transfer? If elected, will your government also commit to maintaining at least this unconditional contribution level over time with a minimum annual Canada Health Transfer escalator of 5%?

* Nova Scotia's participation has been limited due to a provincial election on August 17, 2021.

Premiers are requesting your response by August 31, 2021. Consistent with previous practice, answers from all parties will be published on the website of Canada's Premiers.

This is a critical moment in the history of health care in Canada, and we need a full federal partner to ensure quality care for future generations. We look forward to working together in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Pallister". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian Pallister
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Manitoba

c. All Premiers



Ms. Annamie Paul
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
PO Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R1

AUG 17 2021

Dear Ms. Paul,

Health care is the number one priority of Canadians and they deserve to know that health care services will be there when they need them. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated strains in provincial and territorial health systems, demonstrating the need for immediate and sustained financial support to carry them into the future. Premiers* write to you today unified in their request for the federal government to commit to being a stronger partner through a major increase in Canada Health Transfer (CHT) funding.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have had their surgeries, procedures or diagnostics delayed due to COVID-19. We need to put the services that Canadians value on a more secure and sustainable financial footing to allow provinces and territories to address the key needs in their jurisdictions. This includes, but is not limited to, improvements in the availability of hospital beds, better responding to Canadians' mental health needs, meeting the needs of a growing and aging population, and modernizing our health care systems to keep pace with new drugs and technologies. Provinces and territories are on the front lines of health care and are best placed to determine the needs of their residents. Federal investments must be unconditional to provide maximum flexibility for provinces and territories to invest in their unique health priorities.

Provinces and territories are currently paying for 78% of health care costs and, if nothing is done, the federal share will continue to decline. This is unfair and unsustainable. Premiers have called on the federal government to immediately increase its share of health care costs from 22% to 35% of total health care spending, and to maintain at least this contribution level over time with a minimum annual escalator of 5%. A 35% share of health care costs represents a \$28 billion increase to the CHT in the current fiscal year.

Premiers have been calling for a full federal health funding partner for years, and the situation is now more urgent than ever. As Canadians look to the next federal election, Premiers are asking all federal party leaders to provide a clear and transparent commitment on the issue of healthcare sustainability. To this end, we are asking federal party leaders to provide a written response to each of the following questions:

If elected, will your government make an immediate financial investment to increase its share of health care funding from 22% to 35% of total health care spending through the unconditional Canada Health Transfer? If elected, will your government also commit to maintaining at least this unconditional contribution level over time with a minimum annual Canada Health Transfer escalator of 5%?

* Nova Scotia's participation has been limited due to a provincial election on August 17, 2021.

Premiers are requesting your response by August 31, 2021. Consistent with previous practice, answers from all parties will be published on the website of Canada's Premiers.

This is a critical moment in the history of health care in Canada, and we need a full federal partner to ensure quality care for future generations. We look forward to working together in the interest of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brian Pallister', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Pallister
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Manitoba

c. All Premiers