



December 9, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Now more than ever, Canadians expect their political leaders to ensure the sustainability of the health care systems they depend upon across the country. As the strains of the pandemic have reinforced, health care will always be a fundamental priority for all Canadians. We expect you share these views and our sense of urgency for a First Ministers' meeting to address sustainable, long-term health care funding through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT). Public expectations – for all governments – could not be clearer.

Provinces and territories are responsible and accountable for the delivery of health care to our residents. Premiers are already implementing innovations and reforms to ensure the sustainability of health services for all Canadians, reflecting the unique and diverse circumstances of each jurisdiction.

Over two years have passed since Premiers provided you with a specific proposal for a renewed health care funding partnership through the CHT, to help fund the improvements provinces and territories are implementing in a range of health care delivery areas. Throughout this time, Canada's Premiers have made repeated efforts to engage your government on this critical issue, to address the declining federal cost share that is no longer responsive to system pressures in every province and territory.

We appreciate that your government is committed to significantly increasing the Canada Health Transfer to support provinces and territories in their implementation of plans to improve health services for Canadians and ensure future sustainability. We welcome further details of a federal proposal to anchor and advance substantive dialogue and meaningful progress. We are encouraged that in early 2023 we can yet meet the expectations of all Canadians: an agreement on a new funding partnership for the future.

This imperative will require mutual determination, in advance of the upcoming federal budget. Much goodwill and effort will be necessary over the coming weeks, along with a shared sense of urgency, timing and resolve. To these ends, Canada's Premiers invite you to a meeting in early January in Ottawa.

As First Ministers, we have unique opportunities to deliver real, impactful and far-reaching improvements for Canadians. The current and future challenges facing health care systems relied upon across the country require our urgent collective attention and focus. We remain confident in our ability to work together and deliver on this crucial undertaking.

Sincerely,

Heather Stefanson
Chair, Council of the Federation
Premier of Manitoba

cc: Premiers

Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities