

Children's Healthcare Canada Survey to Political Parties

April 2025

Introduction:

Children's Healthcare Canada is seeking insights from all federal political parties on their commitment to advancing the health and well-being of children and youth in Canada. Your responses will help inform families, healthcare professionals, and child health advocates about your party's vision and policies.

1. Prioritization of Children's Health

- As a nation, Canada has underinvested in children's health (1.68% of GDP) in comparison to peer nations who spend up to 3.68% of their GDP on policies and programs related to children. To remedy this situation, does your party intend to make new investments to measurably improve the health and wellbeing of Canada's kids?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
 - (Optional: Please provide a brief explanation of your position.)

2. Protecting Families against economic pressures

Will your party commit to expanding economic protections for families during these uncertain economic times through an expansion of the Canada Child Benefit?

- Yes
- No
- Will consider
- (Optional: Please elaborate on how your party plans to invest in children's healthcare.)



3. Dedicated Funding for Children's Healthcare

- Canada's healthcare systems serving children, youth, and their families are currently undersized. There is insufficient funding allocated to children's health systems (including mental health and child health research), and a shrinking highly specialized workforce to meet the needs of a growing, increasingly complex and diverse population. Will your party commit to **dedicated, ring-fenced federal funding for children's healthcare** through bilateral health agreements with provinces and territories?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Will consider
 - (Optional: Please elaborate on how your party plans to invest in children's healthcare.)

4. Health Workforce for Pediatric Care

- When children require preventive care or experience illness, injury, or a limitation in their functioning, a wide variety of highly specialized healthcare and other professionals provide expert care to maintain, improve, and promote their health and wellbeing. Will your party commit to addressing shortages of child and youth healthcare professionals (e.g., pediatricians, child psychologists, pediatric nurses) through targeted health workforce planning and funding?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Will consider
 - (Optional: Please describe any workforce strategies your party supports.)

5. Indigenous Child Health Equity

- First Nations, Metis and Inuit children experience measurably poorer health outcomes than other children living in Canada. What is your party's position on initiatives like Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Children First initiative?
 - (Open-ended response)



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6. Data & Accountability for Child Health Outcomes

- Canada currently lacks an integrated, intentional approach to the collection of health data for children and youth. Existing data is limited by the fact that most children's healthcare takes place in settings that also serve adults, with budgets and resources that blend pediatric and adult care. To enhance program delivery, strengthen policies, and target investments, children need to be an intentional focus of an accessible national health data strategy. Does your party support introducing children as a priority audience within the context of national data collection efforts?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Will consider
 - (Optional: How would your party improve child health data collection and accountability?)

7. Additional Comments

- Is there anything else you would like to share regarding your party's vision for improving child and youth health in Canada?
 - (Open-ended response)