



Children's
Healthcare
Canada

Santé
des enfants
Canada

Who We Are

Children's Healthcare Canada is a national, not for profit association that represents healthcare delivery organizations serving children, youth and families.

Our members include Canada's 16 children's hospitals, community/regional hospitals, children's rehabilitation and treatment centers, mental health centres, homecare and palliative care agencies serving children. Together, we are on a mission to improve the health of children and youth living in Canada.



Federal Leadership

Canada is experiencing a crisis in child and youth health. Measurable decline in the health and wellbeing of the children in this country has implications at the individual, family, society and systems levels.

There are many social and economic factors that impact a child's physical health and mental health, but to reach their full potential, children and youth require timely access to high-quality primary, specialty, and tertiary/quaternary healthcare. And yet, today in Canada, many children are waiting longer for essential health services across the continuum of care than adults.

To measurably and sustainably improve children's health and wellbeing, Canada requires a national strategy that includes targets and timelines to ensure every child has access to the basics of life, but also access to integrated, accessible and equitable health systems that improve experiences and outcomes of healthcare. To steward this strategy, and hold provincial, territorial and federal governments accountable for progress, it is further recommended that the federal government establish a Chief Children's Health Officer.

In lock step with priorities defined by the federal government, Members of Parliament can champion children and youth by:

- **Expanding Access to Mental Health Services for Children and Youth:**
 - Good mental health begins in infancy. As the federal government looks to expand investments in the Youth Mental Health Fund, it is essential that resources support programs and services starting in early childhood. Early intervention ensures the greatest impact and promotes lifelong mental wellness for all children and youth.
- **Directing Capital Investments Where They're Needed Most:**
 - Allocate infrastructure funds to modernize and "right-size" healthcare facilities serving children and youth, including Canada's 16 children's hospitals and community-based children's rehabilitation, respite, palliative, and mental health programs and services.
- **Strengthening the Pediatric Health Workforce:**
 - Ensure ongoing national health human resource strategies understand and prioritize solutions to sustain the highly trained workforce that delivers healthcare services for children and youth.

You can help by:

- **Advancing these priorities** and the call for a national strategy for child and youth health.
 - Speak to your colleagues, party leader and relevant ministers to urge them to take action to right-size children's health care systems.
- **Participating in the All-Party Parliamentary Caucus on Children's Health** to learn more about children's health issues and advance efforts to improve child health outcomes.
- **Planning a visit** to your local children's healthcare organization to learn more about their issues and share any perceived gaps or local concerns back to us. We can help with coordinating a visit.

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