



Children's
Healthcare
Canada

Santé
des enfants
Canada



Pediatric Chairs of Canada
Directeurs de pédiatrie du Canada

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Children's Healthcare Canada Urges for Continued Investment in Children's Health Care Systems

This week, Premiers in Canada announced the acceptance of a \$46.2 billion proposal by the federal government to support health care spending over the next 10 years. Children's Healthcare Canada and the Pediatric Chairs of Canada commend the Premiers for accepting the federal government's offer, including \$2 billion in immediate funding to address surgical and emergency backlogs in pediatrics.

"We are excited to work closely with the provinces and territories to ensure that these funds are distributed efficiently and effectively to address the urgent crisis happening in children's healthcare," said Julia Hanigsberg, Board Chair for Children's Healthcare Canada and President and CEO of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. "It's important to note that beyond emergency and surgical departments, an infusion of resources is desperately needed across the entire continuum of care for children and requires a whole system approach."

Children's health systems have increasingly struggled to meet the needs of Canada's growing population of children and youth. Most recently, a convergence of shortages of essential medications, unprecedented spikes in illnesses and surges in urgent and emergent care, resulted in total shutdowns of procedural and surgical capacity, compromising our ability to deliver timely access to essential care. This has caused considerable concern amongst child health leaders and parents across Canada. In fact, recent polling released by Abacus Data reveals that 91 per cent of Canadians (and 94 per cent of parents) feel Canada needs to set national goals to improve children's health outcomes

"We are pleased to see the provinces, territories and federal government working together to prioritize children's healthcare," states Emily Gruenwoldt, President and CEO of Children's Healthcare Canada. "Going forward, we are hopeful this signals a greater commitment from all levels of government towards ensuring that children's health remains a primary focus throughout health care decision-making."

In the coming weeks, the Premiers and federal government will meet to discuss bilateral agreements on health care related to four shared priorities, including expanding access to family health services, supporting health workers and reducing backlogs, improving access to quality mental health and substance use services and modernizing the health care system with standardized health data and digital tools. Children's Healthcare Canada, the Pediatric Chairs of Canada and our members urge all governments to ensure that care for children is included extensively across all four shared health priorities within the bilateral agreements.

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