

January 12, 2012

The Honourable Christy Clark
Chair, The Council of the Federation
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041
Station Provincial Government
Victoria BC, V8W 9E1

The Honourable Darrell Dexter
Vice-Chair, The Council of the Federation
Premier of Nova Scotia
PO Box 726
Halifax, NS B3J2T3

**Subject: The place of public health in a future FPT health agreement
January 2012 Winter Meeting of the Council of the Federation**

Dear Premier Clark and Premier Dexter:

The Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century (CCPH21 – a list of member organizations is appended) is writing to you to request that the Council of the Federation, as well as the provincial and territorial Ministers of Health and Finance, consider an issue that we believe warrants attention.

We appreciate the challenge facing your governments in balancing the immediate needs of people seeking medical advice, treatment and care with the possible future benefits accruing from disease prevention and health promotion. Nonetheless, investing “upstream” in essential public health functions (disease and injury prevention, health promotion, health protection, population health assessment, chronic disease management, health surveillance and monitoring, and pandemic preparedness and response) and in frontline health services (including innovative approaches in the continuum of care and treatment for injury, illness and disease) requires serious consideration within future federal-provincial-territorial health care agreements and within provincial and territorial health sector plans. Not only will such investments serve to strengthen public health/primary health services at the front line; they will also, over the medium to long term, result in a decrease in the pressure on health care facilities and services to provide treatment and care, and a commensurate decrease in health care expenditures.

Given current and projected funding for health and social services and calls by governments for innovative and effective uses of existing resources, the CCPH21 calls upon the Council of the Federation to consider the following:

- That the First Ministers discuss how best to invest in the “upstream” services and factors such as disease and injury prevention, health promotion and health protection initiatives that can reduce both the cost pressures on the acute and post-acute care sectors and contribute to and support positive health outcomes. This will require a concerted and coordinated effort of integration between public health modalities and health system encounters/new models of care, and reflection on how investments are made in the social sector through a social determinants of health approach;
- That the provinces and territories ensure that the principles of the *Canada Health Act* are maintained and applied to ensure the principle of equity and universal access to health care and public health services for all people living in Canada; and,

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- That the provinces and territories call upon the federal government to assume its vital role as a national leader for important pan-Canadian strategies that will affect the health and well-being of Canadians.

The CCPH21 urges governments at all levels to engage openly and directly with the health community on these reforms. Our Coalition will be involved actively in public discussions for innovative, effective policy, programs and practice for better health care and health for all. We look forward to discussing our ideas with you.

Sincerely,



Pamela C. Fralick
Co-Chair, Canadian Coalition for
Public Health in the 21st Century
and
President and CEO
Canadian Healthcare Association



Debra Lynkowski
Co-Chair, Canadian Coalition for
Public Health in the 21st Century
and
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Public Health Association

Encl. List of CCPH21 Member Organizations

cc: The Honourable Alison Redford, Premier of Alberta
The Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Saskatchewan
The Honourable Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba
The Honourable Darrell Pasloski, Premier of Yukon and Minister of Finance, Yukon
The Honourable Bob McLeod, Premier of the Northwest Territories
The Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut
The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Jean Charest, Premier of Québec
The Honourable David Alward, Premier of New Brunswick
The Honourable Robert Ghiz, Premier of Prince Edward Island
The Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Premier of Newfoundland & Labrador
The Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Health, British Columbia
The Honourable Ken Falcon, Minister of Finance, British Columbia
The Honourable Fred Horne, Minister of Health and Wellness, Alberta
The Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Finance, Alberta
The Honourable Don Morris, Minister of Health, Saskatchewan
The Honourable Ken Krawetz, Minister of Finance, Saskatchewan
The Honourable Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health, Manitoba
The Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Finance, Manitoba
The Honourable Doug Graham, Minister of Health and Social Services, Yukon
The Honourable Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services, Northwest Territories
The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance, Northwest Territories
The Honourable Keith Peterson, Minister of Health and Social Services/Minister of Finance, Nunavut
The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario
The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, Ontario
The Honourable Yves Bolduc, Minister of Health and Social Services, Québec
The Honourable Raymond Bachand, Minister of Finance, Québec
The Honourable Madeleine Dubé, Minister of Health, New Brunswick
The Honourable Blaine Higgs, Minister of Finance, New Brunswick
The Honourable Doug Currie, Minister of Health and Wellness, Prince Edward Island
The Honourable Wesley J. Sheridan, Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs, Prince Edward Island
The Honourable Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health, Nova Scotia
The Honourable Graham Steele, Minister of Finance, Nova Scotia
The Honourable Susan Sullivan, Minister of Health and Community Services, Newfoundland & Labrador
The Honourable Tom Marshall, Minister of Finance, Newfoundland & Labrador
Loretta O'Connor, Executive Director, The Council of the Federation Secretariat

**CANADIAN COALITION
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**COALITION CANADIENNE
POUR LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE
AU 21^E SIÈCLE**

**SUPPORTING MEMBERS
(JANUARY 2012)**

Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry
Canadian Association of School Health
Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists
Canadian Chiropractic Association
Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion
Canadian Dental Association
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
Canadian Healthcare Association
Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Paediatric Society
Canadian Pharmacists Association
Canadian Physiotherapy Association
Canadian Psychological Association
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Society for International Health
Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada
College of Family Physicians of Canada
Community and Hospital Infection Control Association
Dietitians of Canada
Faculty of Health, York University
National Specialty Society for Community Medicine
Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada
Safe Kids Canada
The Lung Association
ThinkFirst Foundation of Canada