

December 3, 2002

Dear Minister:

The Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) applauds the Romanow Commission's Report, *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada*, for its steps toward improving the delivery of medical/illness services. We also welcome recommendations for a national immunization strategy and the recognition of some preventive activities in primary health care in such areas as, tobacco, obesity and physical activity. However, the Association is concerned that the report does not recommend a direct investment in the public health system and the broader determinants of health.

CPHA is asking Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health, at their upcoming meeting on December 6, 2002, to increase investment in the public health system. This investment ensures a strong foundation for Canada's health system, resulting in reduced demand on the treatment sector through population-wide health approaches to promotion, prevention and protection.

No health care system is sustainable without increased investments in public health and in the broader determinants of health. Unless we turn around the trends in preventable conditions such as infectious diseases, obesity, diabetes and cancer, the increased demand for treatment arising from demographic pressures will once again surpass our treatment resources.

The Canadian Public Health Association would like to assure Ministers of Health that this Association is more than prepared to work with you towards building a strong public health system in Canada so that Canada's people are the healthiest in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald H. Dafoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gerald H. Dafoe
Chief Executive Officer