

Canadian Medical Association Form E-mail – 3

English e-mails received: 732

Dear Finance Committee:

I am writing today to convey my strong support for seniors care and the next Health Accord to be included in the upcoming pre-budget consultations.

I support the CMA's recommendations that call on the federal government to:

- Establish a new targeted home care innovation fund that would expand home care programs in key areas such as palliative care, mental health and tele-homecare. The CMA recommends that the fund deliver \$3 billion over four years, including \$400 million in the 2017-18 fiscal year, as outlined in the Liberal Party of Canada's election platform;
- Amend the Caregiver and Family Caregiver Tax Credits to make them refundable. This would provide an increased amount of financial support to the approximately 8.1 million Canadians serving a critical role as informal, unpaid caregivers. It is estimated that this measure would cost \$90.8 million in 2017-18;
- Deliver additional funding on an annual basis to the provinces and territories by means of a demographic top-up to the Canada Health Transfer. For the fiscal year 2017-18, this top-up would require \$1.7 billion in federal investment and would support the innovation and transformation needed to address the health needs of our aging population.

As a proud supporter of the CMA's DemandAPlan.ca seniors care campaign, I feel it is important to ensure that all seniors and their families have the care and support they need and deserve.

The demographic shift will affect every region in Canada and have an impact on our health care services. I support federal collaboration with the provinces and territories - including the commitment to a new Health Accord - to ensure the delivery of the best care to Canadians.

I support the CMA's call for government action in this area.

Seniors care is the paramount health care issue of our time and must be the priority for the 2017 federal budget.

Sincerely,