

## **“Consumer-friendly” Throne speech leaves vulnerable Canadians out in the cold**

October 16, 2013 (OTTAWA) – Today’s Speech from the Throne has put consumers first, but leaves vulnerable Canadians on their own as they struggle to maintain their health and well-being.

“The government’s support for job and economic growth are important components of the mix of factors that affect the public’s health,” said Eric Mang, Co-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (CCPH21). “The lack of substantive initiatives that address the deeper challenges that Canadians are facing is disappointing.”

“For millions of Canadians, cell phones and cable TV are not their primary concern,” said Ian Culbert, CCPH21 Co-Chair. “Having enough quality food to put on the table every night, living in safe and affordable housing and having hope for a better future for their children are real worries for too many Canadians for whom prosperity and opportunity are out of reach.”

The opportunity for people and their communities to be healthy, productive and resilient starts where health begins – in the places where people live, where they learn, where they work, where they play and in their families and communities.

“We applaud the government’s renewed support for injury prevention and food safety which are major public health issues,” said Culbert. “We remain concerned, however, about the government’s hard-line approach to the mentally ill in the criminal justice system and the place of harm reduction interventions for its citizens who are fighting addictions.”

Public health is important for Canada’s economic prosperity. A healthy workforce is a productive workforce and by promoting health and well-being, the strain on Canada’s already burdened health care system can be lessened. The CCPH21 video, [Public Health: A Return on Investment](#) encourages governments to strengthen Canada’s economy and productivity through investments in public health.

“Public health interventions save lives and save money,” said Mang. “There are few investments governments can make that reap far-reaching and life-changing results such as those of evidence-based public health initiatives. We look forward to working with the federal government to ensure that such initiatives have a place on their agenda.”

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### **About the Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

CCPH21 is a national network of 32 non-profit organizations, professional associations, health charities and academic researchers who share the common goal of improving and sustaining the health of Canadians. Together, we advocate for public policy that ensures that adequate public health functions are in place to protect and promote health, and prevent disease and injury. We believe that Canada requires immediate and sustained action and investment in public health in order to protect, promote and preserve the health of all people living in Canada.

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