

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
and  
President and CEO  
Canadian Healthcare Association



Debra Lynkowski  
Co-Chair, Canadian Coalition for  
Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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**CANADIAN COALITION  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**COALITION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE  
AU 21<sup>E</sup> SIÈCLE**

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**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