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15 February 2013

Hon. Scott Brison, MP, PC  
Kings-Hants  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Brison,

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) applauds the House of Commons for passing your motion M-315, which directed the Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) to undertake a study on the effects of income inequality. The CFPC is concerned that over eight months have passed and the study has not commenced. We join you in urging FINA to make this issue a priority and ensure that income inequality is given the rigorous study it is due.

The growing inequality gap between Canadians has a deleterious effect on health. For example, we know that poverty is the most critical social determinant of health, that lower-income Canadians have poorer health outcomes and worse self-rated health compared to Canadians of higher socio-economic status.

We appreciate that you recognize the significant health disparities that are a result of income inequality and we applaud your efforts to encourage FINA to study viable policy solutions.

The CFPC recently implemented a [new strategic plan](#) and one of our six goals is that as an organization and on behalf of family medicine and our patients, we are socially accountable and promote social equity in all CFPC decisions and actions. Under this goal, the CFPC will:

1. Enhance organizational awareness of the impact of social determinants on the health and well-being of the people of Canada.
2. Advocate for government policies that address the social determinants of health
3. Enhance awareness among medical students, family medicine residents, and practising family physicians of the social determinants of health and how they should be considered in every patient encounter, particularly when caring for underserved, vulnerable, and marginal populations.
4. Support our members in their role as advocates for improving the social determinants of health that affect the health status of their patients and communities.
5. Include the need to be socially accountable in the development and evaluation of all CFPC policies and activities.

Further, our [Patient's Medical Home](#), a proposal that enhances family practices to ensure patient-centredness and will serve as the hub for patient care, recognizes and seeks to ameliorate the effects that social determinants, such as poverty, job loss, culture, gender, and homelessness have on health.

We thank you again for proposing M-315 and the CFPC supports your efforts. We hope that you will continue to focus on the impact income inequality has on health and we would be delighted to meet with you to offer our perspective on how we might work together to study and address the health impacts of Income inequality and inequity. You can contact me at 905-629-0900 ext 325 or [emang@cfpc.ca](mailto:emang@cfpc.ca).

Sincerely,



Eric Mang  
Director, Health Policy and Government Relations

cc: Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)  
Dr. Hedy Fry, MP  
Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP  
Dr. Marie-Dominique Beaulieu, President, CFPC  
Dr. Francine Lemire, ED and CEO, CFPC  
Dr. Sandy Buchman, Chair, Social Accountability Working Group, and Past-President, CFPC