



August 31, 2020

The Honourable Erin O'Toole
Leader, Conservative Party of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. O'Toole,

On behalf of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), I congratulate you on being elected leader of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Access to high-quality health care is a top priority for the CFPC, its 40,000 members, and people across Canada. The federal government has a significant role to play in shaping public policy to ensure that Canada's health care system continues to evolve in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In your new leadership role, I hope you will support investment in primary care so everyone in Canada has access to high-quality care, which ultimately improves the system's overall efficiency. Our family physician members provide a robust foundation for Canada's health care system as a first point of contact for patients in Canadian communities as well as staffing hospitals, long term care facilities, and many other care settings.

Timely access to care can be advanced through dedicated federal support of the CFPC's [Patient's Medical Home \(PMH\)](#) vision for family practice in Canada—a team-based approach to comprehensive and continuous primary care achieved through interprofessional collaboration. The PMH's principles have been proven to enhance patient access to care and increase patient and provider satisfaction without raising health care costs.

The CFPC also advocates for the integration of mental health services as a crucial part of community-based primary care and equitable access to care close to home, including in rural and remote areas of Canada. How the government can enable family physicians to better serve their communities in rural and remote settings is described in the CFPC's [Rural Road Map for Action: Directions](#) document.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well in your new role. As the voice of family medicine in Canada, the CFPC would be pleased to meet with you to discuss primary care in Canada in more detail. We look forward to working with you to ensure the diverse health care needs of the population are being met, for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Francine Lemire, MD CM, CCFP, FCFP, CAE, ICD.D
Executive Director and CEO

cc. Dr. Shirley Schipper, President, CFPC
Mr. Eric Mang, Executive Director, Member and External Relations, CFPC
Mr. Artem Safarov, Director, Health Policy and Government Relations, CFPC