



DON DAVIES, M.P.

VANCOUVER KINGSWAY



1 March 2021

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP
Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention the College of Family Physicians of Canada's call to strengthen community-based care through a dedicated **Primary Health Care Transition Fund**.

Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed greater demands on our health care system. The pandemic has highlighted the need for Canada to invest in a well-resourced and responsive health care system focused on meeting the needs of Canadian communities.

Integration with community services and other health care providers, collaborative care, and a focus on patients' needs are at the heart of an effective primary care system. This approach, formalized through the CFPC's vision of the *Patient's Medical Home* (PMH), addresses the social determinants of health through an integrated, community-centered model. The PMH vision has informed the development of effective primary care in several provinces, including Family Health Teams in Ontario, Groupes de médecine de famille in Quebec, and Primary Care Networks in Alberta.

High-functioning practices aligned with the PMH vision have been shown to reduce use of emergency rooms, improve management of chronic disease and screening rates, as well as enhance continuity of care and satisfaction of patients and providers. These also reduce long-term system costs – for example in a recent Alberta analysis, two clinics saved the system over \$120 million through reduced reliance on hospital services.

The \$1.2 billion Primary Health Care Transition Fund would support the establishment of sustainable PMH models across the country. The initiative has significant inter-professional support, including that of Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Nurses Association and the Canadian Association of Social Workers. Investing in the Transition Fund will result in improved health outcomes through equitable and timely access to services, which will decrease future costs to the health system and can connect more people in Canada to regular primary care providers.

I strongly urge you to invest in strengthening primary care by establishing the **Primary Health Care Transition Fund**. Federal leadership on this matter is essential to ensuring more efficient and equitable health care with improved continuity of care throughout Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Davies". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Don Davies, MP
Vancouver Kingsway
NDP Health Critic