THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA | LE COLLÈGE DES MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE DU CANADA

Stronger Canada starts with a Family Doctor

Family medicine is the backbone of health care in Canada, directly providing more than half of all the medical care in the country. Attachment to a family physician leads to healthier patients and more efficient health care systems.

But over six million Canadians don't have a regular family doctor.

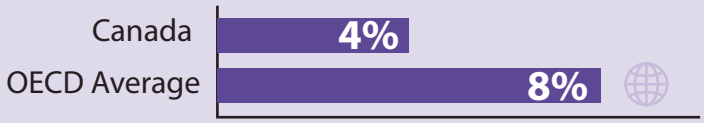
In uncertain times, investing in family medicine is investing in Canada's long-term health, resilience and prosperity

Family medicine funding in Canada is inadequate, lagging behind that of international peers:

Proportion of all medical services provided



Share of health spending in primary care



We don't have to spend more but existing and pledged funds must be directed to where it delivers the most.

Cut the red tape to improve access to family doctors

- ➜ **Fund long-term adoption of AI scribes** to save time spent on paperwork
- ➜ **Reform the Disability Tax Credit** (DTC) form
  - Remove the requirement for family doctors to certify the form
  - Create an honour-and-audit system to prevent fraud
  - Simplify the application and expand eligibility based on provincial/territorial plans

Create the promised new-practice fund for family doctors

- ➜ Covers startup costs: clinic space, equipment, technology
- ➜ Overhead expenses can reach 75 per cent of gross income
- ➜ Crucial for young family doctors to establish stable, sustainable practices
- ➜ More clinics results in more attached patients and care close to home

Invest in family medicine training via the Health Infrastructure Fund

- ➜ Build teaching clinics, dedicated learner spaces
- ➜ Fund learner community integration in underserved communities, boosting retention after training is complete
- ➜ Develop made-in-Canada digital learning environments – connected EMRs, secure virtual care platforms, AI-enabled tools

Advance digital health interoperability – pass Bill S-5

- ➜ Reduces administrative burden, improves care coordination, and enables digital tools
- ➜ After passing the legislation:
  - establish a national standards body and a public vendor registry to enforce rules
  - provide funding to community practices to cover costs
- ➜ Ensure key clinical information is accessible to all providers caring for a patient across different settings

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