



March 28th, 2024

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street,
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Dear The Honourable Mark Holland,

The signatories to this letter request a Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) collaboration with the Canadian health and clinical scientific community to implement a pan-Canadian monitoring system for major risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

According to the latest data from 2019, cardiovascular disease caused over 80,000 deaths and 1,452,000 years of disability (DALYs) in Canada. Each year, increasing numbers of Canadians are dying of cardiovascular disease and the numbers of Canadians suffering from cardiovascular-related disability are increasing rapidly. Cardiovascular diseases are highly preventable with cost effective public health and clinical interventions, but progress in prevention has stalled in recent years. The current surveillance system collects most of the relevant data but how these data are analyzed and reported is an obstacle to implement strategies and take timely actions to optimize preventative health care delivery.

We propose a monitoring system based on the existing surveillance system with the analysis developed collaboratively with scientific community and reported on an annual basis. The new system, based on a partnership between FPTs and the health care and clinical scientific sector, would assess hypertension, diabetes, smoking, obesity, dyslipidemia (i.e., high cholesterol), preeclampsia (and eclampsia), physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption. It would report on the number of Canadians with these health risks and, where appropriate, whether the risk has been clinically diagnosed, treated, and controlled.

The Canadian health and scientific community look forward to a new collaborative interaction with FPT governments to enhance the health, wellness and productivity of Canadians. This collaboration is particularly important with the COVID-19 pandemic as people with cardiovascular risks and disease are at higher risk of morbidity and mortality when infected with COVID-19. The manner in which health care is delivered was also dramatically altered by the pandemic (e.g., about 50% fewer follow-up visits) and as such, monitoring and evaluation are of even greater importance to assess best practices and learnings from these changes.

We ask that federal government convene a FPT roundtable on cardiovascular disease, inviting health care and clinical science leaders from across Canada, with an aim of developing and implementing a collaborative monitoring system.



If you have any questions, please contact anna.stoutenburg@hypertension.ca. We look forward to hearing from you. More details, background, and rationale are attached as an appendix.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norm Campbell".

Dr. Norm Campbell CM MD DSc (hon) FRCPC
(Interim Chair, Canadian Hypertension Coalition)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ross T. Tsuyuki".

Dr. Ross T. Tsuyuki, BSc (Pharm), PharmD, MSc, FC SHP, FACC, FCAHS
President, Hypertension Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrice Lindsay".

Patrice Lindsay
Lead, Engagement and Stroke Strategies
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kara Nerenberg".

Kara Nerenberg, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Chair, Canadian Postpregnancy Clinical Network





Sheldon Tobe

Sheldon Tobe
Co-Chair C-CHANGE
(Canadian Cardiovascular National Guidelines Endeavour)

Robert L. Myette, MS, MD, FRCPC
Pediatric Nephrologist, Medical Director of Dialysis
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

Kristen Pederson MD FRCPC
President, Canadian Association of Pediatric Nephrologists



Diamond Fernandes BSc, ACSM, FAAMM
President of CACPR





A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Kuttig".

Christina (Chris) Kuttig, RN, BN, CCN(C) (she/her)
President – Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sylvie Lauzon".

Sylvie Lauzon, President & CEO
Diabetes Québec

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Critch".

Jeff Critch, MD FRCPC
President, Canadian Paediatric Society

Steven Shadowitz

Dr. Steven Shadowitz
President, Canadian Society of Internal Medicine

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glenn Thibeault".

Glenn Thibeault
Executive Director, Government Affairs, Advocacy & Policy
Diabetes Canada