

THE GROUP OF SIX HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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January 23, 2003

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
Room 309-S Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Chrétien,

Several years ago, the heads of the six national associations of health professionals listed below began meeting to discuss issues of mutual concern. The members of our associations play a significant role in Canada's health system, providing needed services for the health of Canadians. As reported by the Canadian Institute for Health Information in *Health Personnel in Canada, 1991 to 2001*, our organizations represent nationally over 90,000 health professionals, in contrast, for example, to 30,000 family medicine physicians.

We are convinced that collectively we have a unique and critically important contribution to make to discussions concerning the current and future Canadian health system. We have participated individually and in coalitions, through submissions and presentations, to the Kirby Committee hearings and the Romanow Commission. We support your government's initiative to open a dialogue with Canadians about the health system they value and look to you for assurances that the resulting recommendations will receive due consideration.

Mr. Prime Minister, our organizations support the recommendations of both these studies to link funding to accountability. We further believe that the time to invest is now, in order to meet the fiscal needs of the current system, and to ensure that Canadians can access needed services in the most appropriate venue - whether in the community or hospital. We look to your continued and strong leadership to ensure that the work begun through a dialogue with Canadians becomes the action we need for a strong, sustainable health system today and tomorrow.

Our associations will strongly support your efforts in these areas on behalf of all Canadians, and we look forward to being full partners in a revitalized health system.

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Thank you for consideration of our concerns during this time of great change and innovation.

Sincerely,



Pamela C. Fralick
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Physiotherapy



Ondina Love
Executive Director
Association Canadian Assn. of Speech-Language
Pathologists & Audiologists

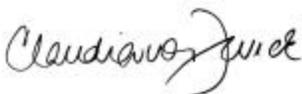


Dr. John Service
Executive Director
Canadian Psychological Association



Marsha Sharp
Chief Executive Officer
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Eugenia Repetur Moreno
Executive Director
Canadian Association of Social Workers



Claudia Von Zweck
Executive Director
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

cc. Federal Minister of Health
Provincial Premiers
Provincial Ministers of Health