



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Investments in Health System are Welcome

OTTAWA, March 5, 2010 – The Health Action Lobby (HEAL) acknowledges the federal government’s continued commitment to investing in Canada’s health system through the Canada Health Transfer, which will increase by 6% for each of the next four years.

Furthermore, “the commitment by the federal government to release \$500 million for Canada Health Infoway as announced in Budget 2009 can have a powerful and transformative impact on the health system by accelerating the introduction of new information technologies that will improve the delivery of efficient and cost-effective health services”, said Dr. Karen Cohen, Co-Chair of HEAL, and Executive Director of the Canadian Psychological Association.

HEAL underscores the importance of the federal government’s commitment to funding health research and the policies and programs that support health promotion and prevention for Canadians, including: \$285 million for aboriginal health programs in five key areas, and \$199 million over two years to ensure that the necessary mental health and emotional support services continue to be provided to former students of Indian Residential Schools and their families, and that payments to former students are made in a timely and effective manner.

“Understanding current fiscal realities facing the federal, provincial and territorial governments, HEAL welcomes the federal government’s continued support of health care – which remains the most important social policy issue on the minds of Canadians but is concerned that this is not sufficient to bring about necessary health system transformation in light of the increasing health needs of an aging demographic and people with chronic illness”, said Mr. Glenn Brimacombe, Co-Chair of HEAL, and President & CEO of the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations.

As we approach the end of the 2004 First Ministers’ Accord, members of HEAL look forward to continuing to work with the federal government, and the provinces and territories, to design and implement policies and programs that best meet the changing health and health care needs of Canadians.

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H E A L
The Health Action Lobby

Alzheimer Society of Canada
Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations
Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
Canadian AIDS Society
Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Association of Optometrists
Canadian Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists
Canadian Chiropractic Association
Canadian College of Health Service Executives
Canadian Counseling Association
Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
Canadian Dermatology Association
Canadian Healthcare Association
Canadian Home Care Association
Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association
Canadian Institute of Child Health
Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Mental Health Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Orthopaedic Association
Canadian Pharmacists Association
Canadian Physiotherapy Association
Canadian Podiatric Medical Association
Canadian Psychological Association
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
Canadian Society of Nutrition Management
Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists
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Paramedic Association of Canada
Practical Nurses of Canada
The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada