



For immediate release

Canadians See “Moral Imperative” to Fix Health Care System

Ottawa, August 10, 2011 – The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is releasing today the report on the National Dialogue on Health Care Transformation with Canadians. The report shows clearly that, while the public recognizes that our system does not work as well as it should, there remains a strong national commitment to transform our system so that it can deliver timely, compassionate and efficient care in the appropriate setting.

The report collates input received online and in person from nearly 1,500 Canadians who attended six public town hall meetings in Halifax, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver, La Prairie (south shore of Montreal), and Ottawa held in partnership with *Maclean's* and *L'actualité* magazines and broadcast partner the Canadian Parliamentary Access Channel (CPAC). The town halls were supplemented by over 4,000 online comments and ratings captured on the National Dialogue on Health Care Transformation website, www.healthcaretransformation.ca.

“Canadians talked emotionally, eloquently and emphatically about the moral imperative to fix the health care system and to fix it now,” said Dr. Jeff Turnbull, CMA President. “Online and in person, Canadians said they remain committed to our system of health care and they are ready to participate in transforming it for the future.”

The National Dialogue, conducted between December 2010 and June 2011, was framed around three questions: What would you consider good value for health care? What do you think Canadians’ responsibilities are, now and in the future, in regard to their health? And, do you think the Canada Health Act should be broadened to include things like pharmacare and long-term care? These questions were developed to support the CMA’s efforts, including the development of principles to guide health system transformation (released July 19, 2011).

Canadians’ views also informed the deliberations of an Advisory Panel on Resourcing Options for Sustainable Health Care in Canada. The panel comprises Dr. Philippe Couillard, Tony Dagnone, Sister Elizabeth Davis, Don Drummond, Dr. John Horne and Dr. Wendy Thomson. It was struck to assess the system and tender advice to the CMA Board on the role the CMA can play in helping to achieve sustainable health care in Canada. The panel’s report will be released at the CMA General Council in St. John’s N.L. on Monday August 22, at which time panel members will discuss their findings and recommendations. Biographies of the panel members are available at www.cma.ca/healthcaretransformation.

.../2

“We’re seeing an amazing convergence of opinion, be it from patients and their families, health care professionals, even business and community leaders, that the time for action is now,” added Dr. Turnbull.

An electronic copy of the Report on the National Dialogue on Health Care Transformation can be found at: <http://www.cma.ca/advocacy/cma-media-centre>

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is the national voice of Canadian physicians. Founded in 1867, CMA’s mission is to serve and unite the physicians of Canada and be the national advocate, in partnership with the people of Canada, for the highest standards of health and health care. The CMA is a voluntary professional organization representing over 74,000 of Canada’s physicians and comprising 12 provincial and territorial medical associations and 51 national medical organizations.

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