

January 23, 2023

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Duclos,

RE: Support for Canada Health Transfer Assurances from Sonography Canada

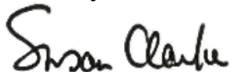
In recent months, pressure has grown on your government to increase provincial funding for healthcare through the Canada Health Transfer. The transfer is an efficient mechanism to deliver money to the provinces, but it has been sorely lacking as a tool to improve national health standards and service delivery. Sonography Canada strongly supports your government's pursuit of assurances from the provinces that any new funding should be contingent upon accountability measures.

Sonography Canada is the national voice for diagnostic medical sonographers in Canada. Our members perform ultrasounds all over the body to ensure doctors can see and understand a range of maladies from injuries to tumours. Like other health professions, our 6,500 members are dealing with constant stress and face the added pressure of alleviating the diagnostic backlog that has contributed to surgery and treatment delays caused by the pandemic. We believe that addressing health human resources challenges is the most important role that health transfer funding can play, but without clear guidance, we may not see provinces and territories adequately invest in supplying an array of essential health professionals.

A national plan for sufficient health human resources starts with clear and consistent data on the training and retention of professionals, and their working environment. We hope that you will continue to encourage provinces to accept terms that require data sharing as part of the conditions of receiving additional health transfer funding. This data will provide important labour market information related to the demand for medical diagnostic sonographers that will assist our advocacy and, as a result, improve patient outcomes over the long term.

Canada needs more sonographers. We highly encourage you to work with your provincial counterparts to recognize that while more doctors and nurses are important to solving acute challenges in our healthcare system, many other allied health professions contribute to a high-quality healthcare system. Ensuring more appropriately trained, well-equipped medical diagnostic sonographers will lead to more early intervention and less costly operations in many provincially run health networks. We look forward to providing you, or members of your policy team, with more information if we have the opportunity to meet in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,



Susan Clarke
Executive Director
Sonography Canada

CC: Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance