



Extended **Healthcare**  
**Professionals** Coalition



Coalition des  
**professionnels de la santé**

December 15, 2021

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough P.C., MP  
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

**Re: Canada Student Loan forgiveness program expansion**

On behalf of the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC), please accept our congratulations on your re-election and reappointment as Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion for the Government of Canada. We look forward to our continued working relationship.

We would like to follow up on the expanded access to the Canada Student Loans Forgiveness Program outlined in your party's election platform. As a coalition representing 11 national professional health and social organizations, we applaud the commitment to include dentists, pharmacists, dental hygienists, midwives, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and early childhood educators in the existing loan forgiveness program, however, we would be remiss if we didn't point out that this list contains some critical oversights. To best position this program for success, we strongly recommend an extension of the program to include audiologists, dietitians, speech-language pathologists, physiotherapists, chiropractors, occupational therapists, and optometrists to ensure that a community's need for the full spectrum of health and social services provides is met

As you are aware, many rural communities have great difficulty attracting and retaining health and social care professionals, and access to student loan forgiveness would greatly support Canadians in rural areas in accessing these critical health services.

Expanding access to this broader set of professionals would support your government's stated commitment to better serve rural communities. This is especially significant in the wake of the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the physical health and mental health and wellbeing of people living in those communities. The government should commit to robust and comprehensive support for rural communities to position them for a better future.

We trust you will move swiftly with your Ministerial Colleagues in Employment and Social Development Canada, Rural Economic Development and Families, Children and Social Development to implement this important campaign commitment and would be delighted to provide any support that may be of assistance.

Ondina Love, Chair of EHPC, will follow up with your office in the near future to offer any support possible. She can be reached at 613-797-9462 or by email at [olove@cdha.ca](mailto:olove@cdha.ca).

Sincerely,



Ondina Love, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association



François Couillard  
Chief Executive Officer/Chef de la direction  
Canadian Association of Optometrists



Hélène Sabourin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists



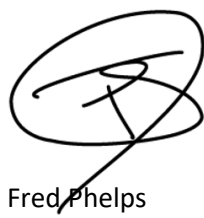


Alison Dantas, MA, CEC, C. Dir.  
CEO, CCA  
Canadian Chiropractic Association

Association  
chiropratique  
canadienne



Canadian  
Chiropractic  
Association<sup>TM/MC</sup>



Fred Phelps  
Executive Director  
Canadian Association of Social Workers

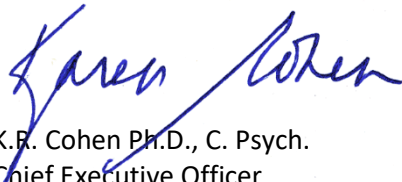


Dr. Richard Holden  
President  
Canadian Dental Association



CANADIAN  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION  
DENTAIRE  
CANADIENNE



K.R. Cohen Ph.D., C. Psych.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Psychological Association

CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE



JP Cody-Cox  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Physiotherapy Association



Canadian  
Physiotherapy  
Association

Association  
canadienne de  
physiothérapie



Jennifer Wojcik, MSc RD  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Dietitians of Canada



**Dietitians of Canada**  
*Les diététistes du Canada*



Dawn Wilson, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Speech-Language & Audiology Canada



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada  
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada  
Communicating care | La communication à cœur

**About the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC)**

EHPC aims to improve the health and welfare of all Canadians; promote excellence and innovation in health research and practice and promote the advancement, development, dissemination and application of knowledge that advances health, social services and well-being for Canadians.

Our membership includes:

- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association of Optometrists
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian Dental Association
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- Dietitians of Canada
- Speech-Language & Audiology Canada

cc. The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development  
The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health  
The Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister for Northern Affairs  
The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services  
The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
The Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., Minister of Labour