



Extended Healthcare
Professionals Coalition



Coalition des
professionnels de la santé

May 12, 2022

Robert Morrissey, M.P.

Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sean Casey, M.P.

Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Health

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

RE: HUMA Study on Labour Shortages, Working Conditions and the Care Economy
HESA Study on Canada's Health Work Force

Dear Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Casey,

As members of the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC), we are writing regarding two of your respective committees' current studies: the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities' report on Labour Shortages, Working Conditions and the Care Economy, and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health's report on Canada's Health Workforce. Our member organizations submitted and will be participating individually in your studies, the intent of our outreach is to highlight core issues on behalf of the entire coalition.

The EHPC membership consists of organizations that represent regulated health professions that make up Canada's healthcare composite. We comprise over 100,000 of Canada's regulated healthcare professionals, and we speak with a singular voice to ensure that health services provided in the public and private sectors are fully recognized by stakeholders and decision-makers and are accessible to the Canadian public. The Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC) aims to improve the health and welfare of all Canadians; promote excellence and innovation in health research, education, and practice; and promote the advancement, development, dissemination, and application of knowledge that advances health, social services and well-being for Canadians.

1. Healthcare Strain:

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there existed significant pressure on public healthcare systems and the strain on individual healthcare workers. However, we encourage both committees to look at these issues beyond the confines of Canada's publicly funded healthcare system. Roughly one-third of healthcare in Canada is delivered outside of this system, in private settings, many of which are small businesses. We urge the committee to consider this when formulating their recommendations to the government at the conclusion of their study. By failing to consider the broader impact of public

healthcare system reforms on the healthcare system as a whole, any actions taken by the public sector can impact the delivery of services people need in communities which Medicare does not fund.

2. Rural and Remote Care

Secondly, a priority for our members is ensuring access to healthcare providers in rural and remote areas. In the 2021 federal election campaign, the Liberal Party platform committed to expanding the Canada Student Loans Forgiveness Program beyond doctors and nurses, to include dentists, pharmacists, dental hygienists, midwives, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and early childhood educators. A commitment to expanding the program was also included in ministerial mandate letters in December 2021 but without a reference to specific professions. We urge the committee to encourage the government to move forward with this commitment in a timely fashion, and to include not only those professions outlined above, but add dietitians, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, physiotherapists, chiropractors, occupational therapists, and optometrists as well to ensure that a community's need for the full spectrum of health and social services provides is met. Expanding access to this broader set of professionals would support your government's stated commitment to better serve rural communities. Canadians should have access to collaborative primary care teams in communities across Canada which includes the range of regulated health providers EHPC represents. Collaborative care teams are especially important to the successful management of people's chronic and recurrent health conditions as well as to the physical, mental and social care needs experienced in the wake of the global pandemic.

3. Healthcare Workforce Data:

Third, we want to emphasize the importance of improved collection and analysis of healthcare workforce data to improving health systems and resource planning and to the coordination of health labour market functions such as training, management, recruitment, and retention. We support the recommendations put forward by the Canadian Health Workforce Network (CHWN) in this respect but urge you to invest in the collection of workforce data across health sectors and professions, especially professions whose services are not covered by Medicare and about whom much less is known. Our coalition member organizations also support enhancing telehealth services, better integrating Canada's record number of immigrants into the healthcare workforce and supporting post-secondary institutions as they move towards online curricula when feasible for healthcare worker training programs in order to make them more accessible to rural or remote regions and to those already in the field.

Finally, we would like to thank both committees for their considerable work on this topic through their respective studies. To secure long-term sustainability and access to healthcare services for all Canadians, addressing healthcare human resource challenges, workforce issues, and labour shortages is essential. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further information or have any questions. EHPC would be happy to meet with you, or with any committee members, to discuss these issues in further detail.

Sincerely,



Ondina Love, CAE

Chair, Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES OPTOMÉTRISTES



CAOT · ACE

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes

Association
chiropratique
canadienne



Canadian
Chiropractic
Association^{TM/MC}



CANADIAN
DENTAL
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION
DENTAIRE
CANADIENNE



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
canadienne de
physiothérapie



**SAC
OAC**

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada

Communicating care | La communication à cœur



Dietitians of Canada
Les diététistes du Canada

C.C.

House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities

- Stephanie Kusie, M.P., Vice-Chair
- Louise Chabot, M.P., Vice-Chair
- Chad Collins, M.P., Member
- Michael Coteau, M.P., Member
- Marilyn Gladu, M.P., Member
- Ron Liepert, M.P., Member
- Wayne Long, M.P., Member
- Soraya Martinez Ferrada, M.P., Member
- Alex Ruff, M.S.C., C.D., M.P., Member
- Tony Van Bynen, M.P., Member
- Bonita Zarillo, M.P., Member

House of Commons Standing Committee on Health

- Michael Barrett, M.P., Vice-Chair
- Luc Thériault, M.P., Vice-Chair
- Don Davies, M.P., Member
- Dr. Stephen Ellis, M.P., Member
- Laila Goodridge, M.P., Member
- Dr. Brendan Hanley, M.P., Member
- Majid Jowhari, M.P., Member
- The Honourable Mike Lake, P.C., M.P., Member
- Dr. Marcus Powlowski, M.P., Member
- Sonia Sidhu, M.P., Member
- Adam van Koeeverden, M.P., Member