



Save Your Skin Foundation is pleased to provide its Recommendations in the area of health care to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance as part of the 2025 Pre-Budget consultations in advance of the next Federal Budget in Fall 2025.

Save Your Skin Foundation is a national not-for-profit group dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy and awareness initiatives. SYSF provides a community of support for people living with cancers and their caregivers throughout the entire continuum of care, from prevention and diagnosis to survivorship.

## General Comments

Save Your Skin Foundation recognizes that Canada is living in very uncertain and difficult times which are significantly affecting our economy. We recognize the need for austerity measures as well as the reallocation of funding to invest in areas that will strengthen Canada's economy and build for the future. One important aspect of this work is within the health care system through reallocation of funding in some areas and invest in others.

Cancer is an important aspect of this system from research to prevention to treatments that will ensure survivorship and a return to the workforce and support for those in the workforce and in the education system.

The healthcare sector including those working in the cancer area also provides a significant number of jobs that helps to drive our economy.

Research in cancer and support for clinical trials as well as the removal of redundant healthcare policy decisions impacting cancer and the removal of unnecessary red tape encourages industry, including the pharmaceutical industry to make investments and do business in Canada.

With 2 in 5 people expected to be diagnosed in their lifetime and 1 in 4 expected to die of a cancer it is clear that supporting work in this area will have a profoundly positive effect on the economy.

## General Recommendations

1. Create a National Ethics Board and disband the myriad of ethics boards across the country, thereby gaining efficiencies and saving the cost of managing all of these board.
2. Lead a comprehensive review of all federal government departments, agencies and government related organizations to remove duplication and red tape. For example, mandate that Health Canada, Canada's Drug Agency and the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance review medication review files simultaneously and in a coordinated manner so that the inefficiency and waste of resources of consecutive reviews are removed.
3. Analyze the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) staffing to determine whether they are aligned now that the new streamlined review processes have been implemented.
4. Mandate the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance to implement managed entry agreements, also known as outcome-based agreements, to ensure efficiencies in its negotiation process and risk sharing the cost of pharmaceutical products that do not ultimately prove to be effective and safe over time on the market.
5. Implement the *Canada Strong* plan including the comprehensive measures you outline to build and protect our health care system. Adding new doctors; build hospitals and clinics long term care home and investing the women's health and reproductive health will all lead to a healthier society.
6. Implement the *Canada Strong* plan to improve mental health care and support to address the overdose crisis including the immediate commitment of \$500 million in the Emergency Treatment Fund.
7. Implement the *Canada Strong* plan to modernize Canada's healthcare system including cutting wait times for life-saving medications, launching a Task Force for Public Health Care Innovation, implementing a national licence for physicians and nurses, reducing the administrative burden on doctors and securing Canadians' access to their health care data. This work will be coordinated by work done by the provinces/territories and other interested parties including the Canadian Medical Association.
8. Continue to support the excellent work of the Canadian Institutes for Health Information and Canada Infoway to develop and implement a pan-Canadian interoperable health care system. The legislation requiring interoperability and data blocking that was introduced in the House before the election should be re-tabled in this next session of Parliament.
9. Work with the provinces and territories to remove the interprovincial barriers to the implementation of the 5 Principles of the *Canada Health Act* including the commitment for "universality: all residents must be covered equally."
10. Continue to implement "Solving the Housing Crisis: Canada's Housing Plan "to support the elimination of homelessness.
11. Augment supports to eliminate child poverty based on the advice of experts including people with lived experience
12. Continue to support virtual care, considering the needs of diverse populations.
13. Continue to support the *Pharmacare Act* and the dental care programme.

14. Ensure that all programmes by the federal government are viewed under an equity lens.
15. Implement a tax credit for caregivers as they relieve pressure from the already overburdened health care systems.

## Cancer-Specific Recommendations

1. Continue to support the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) and work in the oncology area.
2. Support the implementation of the Cancer Data Management Strategy developed by CPAC and the Canadian Cancer Society as a foundation for a complete oncology data strategy.
3. Reallocate a portion of the funding from areas where funding is recovered to ensure the commitment to the Key Principles of the *Canada Health Act*, and the *Canada Strong* commitment specifically to enhancing cancer care across the continuum from prevention to treatment to survivorship.
4. Fulfil the commitment made at the Council of the Federation meeting in July 2025 to accelerate access to badly needed treatments for people badly needing these treatments. In the case of cancer, that includes access to innovative therapies, testing and addressing the financial toxicity faced by people living with cancer in order to obtain treatment by providing the provinces with the necessary resources to do so.
5. Continue to support the work of the Canadian Taskforce on Prevention Healthcare by making it a permanent body that is arms length, i.e. an independent agency, with a mandate to modernize methods for guideline development through embracing innovation, best practices from other jurisdictions and the inclusion of people with lived experience and their representatives.<sup>6</sup>
6. Ensure robust research funding for ISED to ensure interest by international pharmaceutical companies to do business in Canada.
7. Genome Canada's Canadian Precision Health Initiative (CPHI) to drive precision health and economic growth, must ensure that a small proportion of the funding be dedicated to improving accessibility to genomics technologies, such as comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP), for metastatic cancer patients in Canada. It should also collaborate with patient organizations to promote awareness and education of genomic testing to help inform future policy direction.

## Signatories

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