

**Liberal Party of Canada**

350 Albert Street, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6M8

Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 8, 2021

Canadian Paediatric Society

Via email: samanthag@cps.ca

Dear Dr. Grimes,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

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Canadians deserve to know that their universal, public health care system is prepared to meet their needs, now and into the future. For parents, ensuring their children get access to quality health care is especially important. That's why the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to investing more than \$28 billion over the next five years to ensure our health care system delivers the health services Canadians need.

The Liberal government has made significant investments in the health of Canadians, including for pediatric research and treatments. Budget 2021 included \$30 million in funding for pediatric cancer research, as well as \$25 million for diabetes research, including juvenile diabetes. We also created a national strategy for rare diseases and provided ongoing funding of \$500 million in Budget 2021 for the program for high-cost drugs for rare diseases. In August, the federal Liberal government signed an agreement with the Government of Prince Edward Island to establish a pharmacare demonstration project, and as committed in Budget 2021, a re-elected Liberal government will continue to work with all willing partners to advance the establishment of a national pharmacare program.

A re-elected Liberal government will also provide the provinces and territories with an additional \$6 billion cash transfer - on top of the \$4 billion transferred earlier this year -- to eliminate the backlog of surgeries and procedures from COVID-19 and fully clear health care waitlists. We will also work with the provinces and territories to hire up to 7500 new doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners so that every Canadian has access to primary care. We will further support patients by investing an additional \$400 million into virtual care.

We are also the only party with both a comprehensive plan *and* the funding to support it, which recognizes that mental health *is* health. We will create a new transfer -- the Canada Mental Health Transfer -- and provide \$4.5 billion in funding over the first five years. This builds on the historic agreements reached in 2017 to provide the provinces and territories \$5 billion in funding for mental health. This funding will help increase the availability of mental health services, and reduce the waitlists faced by too many Canadians, including children. It also builds on the significant investments made in mental health, including launching the Wellness Together Portal, which more than 1 million Canadians have accessed, as well as nearly \$1 billion invested in Budget 2021 for mental health, including the establishment of national standards of mental health care.

The Liberal plan for health care, including mental health, is bold and will provide significant resources to ensure the long-term resilience of our system - fully 5 times more than the Conservatives. By contrast, Erin O'Toole and the Conservatives will barely scratch the surface of what is needed to support our system, making Canadians wait for their promises on funding to take effect 8 or 10 years down the road. As costed by the Parliamentary Budget Officer, their plan would provide only \$3.6 billion in funding for universal public health care over the same five-year period. On the heels of a health crisis, Canada's health system needs support now.

We will continue to work with partner organizations such as the Canadian Paediatric Society to ensure our efforts are evidence-based and meet the needs of Canadian children and their families.