

The Honourable Christy Clark
Chair, Council of the Federation
c/o Council of the Federation Secretariat
Suite 603, 360 Albert Street
Ottawa ON K1R 7X7

Dear Premier Clark;

**Canadian Association of
Occupational Therapists**

I am writing on behalf of the Group of 7 Health Professions (G7) Alliance. Our seven professions account for over 120,000 of Canada's health care providers.

**Canadian Association of
Social Workers**

We commend the Council of the Federation for establishing the Health Care Innovation Working Group at the January 2012 Premier's meeting. We fully support the Working Group's mandate to drive a collaborative process for transformation and innovation so that sustainable delivery of health care services is ensured for Canadians.

**Canadian Association of
Speech-Language
Pathologists and
Audiologists**

While we are national associations, we each work closely with our provincial and territorial counterparts to coordinate activities related to standards, scope of practice and practice guidelines. In addition to the roles national associations play in the development and accreditation of practices and guidelines, we have an important post-licensure, education function for health professionals. Further, by coming together under the G7 umbrella we can build and communicate consensus across professions as well.

**Canadian Pharmacists
Association**

**Canadian Physiotherapy
Association**

Innovations for a transformed health care system for Canadians will depend on the successful engagement of the professionals who deliver health care to Canadians. The G7 health professions comprise a very significant proportion of Canada's health human resources. We believe that our engagement is critical to the Working Group's success. We fully support the Working Group's three areas of focus: health human resources, scope of practice and clinical practice guidelines. These have been priority activities for our associations for many years. We have innovative solutions to offer. The following are some examples of what we can contribute to the Working Group discussion:

**Canadian Psychological
Association**

Dietitians of Canada

Health Human Resources

The G7 is committed to ensuring the long-term viability of Canada's health human resources by achieving self-sufficiency and facilitating labour mobility. Collectively we are committed to creating and sustaining the health resources that respond to the needs of Canadians. As independent national associations we are well positioned to comprehensively engage our regulatory and education partners to promote meaningful system change.

Scope of Practice

The G7 has come together as Canada's leaders in establishing the principles of interdisciplinary, collaborative practice, which is essential to the implementation of team-based care models. It was the Group of 7 that proposed, directed, and completed the landmark 2007 project 'Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care in Canada (EICP)'. The legacy of this initiative, accepted by both the Canadian Medical and Canadian Nurses Associations, are lasting principles for collaboration and practical tools for teams to use when delivering primary health care.

Secretariat:

Canadian Physiotherapy
Association

955 Green Valley Cr.
Suite 270
Ottawa ON K2C 3V4

Tel: (613) 564-5454
1-800-387-8679
Fax: (613) 564-1577

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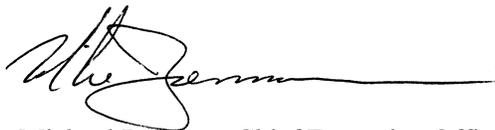
Clinical Practice Guidelines

Finally, the innovations that the Council of the Federation seeks are only possible within health systems that embrace the concept of interdisciplinary care. This requires change to how systems are organized and funded to sustain collaborative practice where each health professional contributes to the fullness of their competencies. For example, guidelines for the successful management of chronic diseases like diabetes involve support and assistance with medications (pharmacists), nutrition, mood, activity and behaviour change (dietitians, occupational therapists, psychologists), social and family support (social work) as well as physical rehabilitation (physiotherapy). The health professionals within the Group of 7 are the experts in delivery of these elements of service and care that are core to successfully maintaining wellness and managing illness.

In conclusion, we are enthusiastic about the opportunities for innovation to the delivery of health services and support in Canada and look forward to contributing to your work. In the coming months and years you can rely on the members of the G7 to provide support for your mandate to advance innovative healthcare throughout Canada. As the Council of the Federation seeks ways to enable provinces and territories to share advances, we are a natural ally in both the discovery and sharing of healthcare innovation.

We look forward to many years of collaboration, innovation and success.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Brennan, Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Physiotherapy Association

Karen Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association

Joanne Charlebois, Executive Director
Canadian Association of Speech-Language
Pathologists and Audiologists

Fred Phelps, Executive Director
Canadian Association of Social Workers

Jeff Poston, Executive Director
Canadian Pharmacists Association

Marsha Sharp, Chief Executive Officer
Dietitians of Canada

Claudia von Zweck, Executive Director
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists