

NEWS ADVISORY

Canadian alliance urges political parties to step up action on health and health care

August 17, 2011 – This week, the association representing Canada's Community Health Centres (CHCs) submitted key health and healthcare questions to the leaders of all political parties seeking office this Fall during provincial elections in Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. These questions will also be submitted in early September to all candidates seeking office in the Northwest Territories, once official candidate lists are released.

The survey of political parties, submitted by the Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations (CACHCA), is intended to help voters in each province understand where the parties stand on key commitments to improving health and health care. Responses from all parties will be posted and circulated in mid-September. CACHCA has prepared a [background document](#) that describes in further detail the issues outlined within its letter to political parties

Beginning today, CACHCA is also encouraging members of the Canadian public to become involved in calling for key measures that will boost provincial/territorial health systems and improve access to high-quality, comprehensive health services. The association today released online petitions in all provinces and territories, calling on the all governments to commit to key measures that will improve health and health care. Canadians are urged to sign the online petition for their province or territory.



[Alberta petition](#)



[New Brunswick petition](#)



[Ontario petition](#)



[British Columbia petition](#)



[Northwest Territories petition](#)



[Prince Edward Island petition](#)



[Manitoba petition](#)



[Nova Scotia petition](#)



[Saskatchewan petition](#)



[Newfoundland & Labrador petition](#)



[Nunavut petition](#)



[Yukon petition](#)

Over the coming weeks, CACHCA will be providing further updates about how Canadians can become involved in calling for a more effective health system for all Canadians -- what Tommy Douglas and Medicare's other founders called the "second stage/phase of Medicare".



About Canada’s Community Health Centres (CHCs)

Community Health Centres currently provide care and support to roughly two million Canadians, although access to CHCs varies greatly by province and territory, city and town. While they may be named differently from province to province—for example, Québec’s CLSCs or Saskatchewan’s Co-Operative Health Centres—several essential features are common to all CHCs.

What distinguishes this “CHC model” most is that it brings diverse first-line health services and providers out from isolation and their traditional silos and connects high-quality health care with community and social interventions.

Together, within the Community Health Centre, family physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, dietitians, health promoters, community health workers and other care providers and health program staff work as a team to deliver comprehensive health care and support under a single roof. This means the right care, by the right providers, at the right time. CHCs also integrate primary *clinical* care with health promotion programs, illness prevention programs and community development initiatives.

CHCs also support their clients and communities to achieve health by addressing “social determinants of health” such as poverty and inadequate housing that lead to poor health outcomes and community destabilization.

Through their integrated health and health care approach, CHCs help keep Canadians healthy in the first place, they provide the right type of care by the right provider(s) when it is needed, and they act as spark-plugs for social and economic development at a local level. For more information about CACHCA and Canada’s Community Health Centres visit www.cachca.ca

