



Subject: Will you support health care and research in Canada?

Dear CANDIDATE NAME

We know that health is a priority for people in the London region and across Canada. There has been no greater disruptive force than COVID-19. As Canada seeks to emerge stronger from the challenges thrown at us by the pandemic, a renewed health-care and health research system will be the keys to our future success.

Innovative health research underpins excellent health care - support for this sector is critical. Without a strong research enterprise, Canada cannot put in place effective policies to improve the health and wellbeing of Canadians, and address issues like the opioid crisis, dementia among seniors, mental health care, chronic disease and more.

Despite funding infusions in recent years, health research in Canada has not yet recovered from a decade of low investment and support. We have lost considerable ground compared to other countries and the country's gross domestic spending on R&D has continued to decline over the last 15 years. Granting competitions continue to show low success rates. Not only does this make Canada less attractive to the world's research talent, including early-career researchers trying to establish themselves, but it also puts Canada's resiliency to future pandemics in jeopardy.

We head to the polls soon to choose the next federal Parliament. I invite you to share more about how you and your party plan to support health research.

As a candidate in my riding, I am asking that you advocate for the following:

1. Canada's post-pandemic recovery and future pandemic preparedness depend on having a robust health research and innovation ecosystem that recognizes the unique and essential roles contributed by each stakeholder, and expects and enables trans-sector partnerships between and among stakeholders. Canada's post-pandemic recovery and future pandemic preparedness depend on having a robust health research and innovation ecosystem that recognizes the unique and essential roles contributed by each stakeholder, and expects and enables trans-sector partnerships between and among stakeholders.
2. The pandemic has shown that our health research and innovation ecosystem is capable of remarkable speed, productivity and impact when we work collaboratively towards a common goal. Canada needs a whole-of-government approach to health research and innovation policy and investment that reflects and supports the collaborative nature of our ecosystem.
3. Recent reinvestments into Canadian research and innovation have been welcome and much needed, but Canada remains significantly outpaced internationally and there is much more to do to catch up and lead. Canada must stay focused and continue to invest in fundamental science through the Tri-Council.
4. We encourage government leaders and representatives to continue to promote research and innovation initiatives that address the needs and ambitions of diverse, highly-qualified research personnel, including the next generation, Indigenous Peoples, women, racialized communities and those of diverse abilities.
5. The pandemic has demonstrated the critical need—and demand—for robust health data that can accurately inform decision-making, enhance threat surveillance, educate the public and help health leaders gain the upper hand in a crisis, and for digital health tools that can engage patients.

For more information, please visit the [Resources for Candidates](#) from Research Canada.

Thank you,

NAME