



Nurse Practitioners
Association of Canada

Association des
infirmières et
infirmiers praticiens
du Canada

NPAC-AIIPC

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October 9, 2024

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

Re: Pre-Budget Submission to Support the Integration and Expansion of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in Canada's Health System

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Canada (NPAC), I am writing to urge the federal government to prioritize the integration and expansion of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in our national health system as part of the upcoming budget. Nurse Practitioners have been recognized as essential contributors to the healthcare system, delivering high-quality, patient-centered care to Canadians, often in underserved or rural areas. However, additional federal support is critical to further integrate NPs into healthcare teams and to expand the reach of NP-led care across the country.

The challenges within our healthcare system, particularly in terms of access to timely and equitable care, are well documented. Lengthy wait times, a shortage of primary care providers, and the strain on hospital resources have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Nurse Practitioners, with their advanced education and training, offer a solution that can help alleviate these pressures by providing comprehensive healthcare services, from diagnosis to treatment and management of chronic conditions, with proven outcomes in patient satisfaction and health results.

Key Federal Priorities:

- 1. Funding for Increased NP Integration in Primary, Acute and Specialty Care:**
To maximize the impact of Nurse Practitioners, it is essential that federal funding be allocated to support the hiring of more NPs across all provinces and territories. This funding would allow for the expansion of NP roles in hospitals, long-term care facilities, community clinics, and especially in rural and remote regions where access to care is limited. NPs can significantly reduce wait times and improve patient outcomes, particularly for individuals with chronic conditions, mental health needs, and those requiring palliative care.



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2. **Support for NP Specialty Practice Education:** Specialized training and education for Nurse Practitioners are essential to address the evolving healthcare needs of Canadians. As the population ages and chronic disease rates rise, there is a growing demand for healthcare professionals with expertise in areas such as geriatrics, oncology, mental health, and critical care. However, without targeted funding for NP specialty education programs, many nurses who wish to pursue advanced practice roles in these areas face financial and institutional barriers. We urge the federal government to provide dedicated funding for NP specialty education to ensure that Canadians have timely access to expert care in these critical areas.

3. **Investment in Nurse Practitioners and Collaborative Care Models:** NPs have demonstrated their capacity to provide accessible and cost-effective care to communities, especially in regions where physician shortages are acute. Expanding investment in these models, including interdisciplinary and collaborative care teams, would enhance care continuity and patient outcomes while reducing pressure on emergency departments and acute care services.

As the federal government looks ahead to the upcoming budget, we respectfully ask that you consider these measures to support the integration and expansion of Nurse Practitioners in Canada's healthcare system. With a strong commitment to NPs, Canada can make significant strides toward addressing healthcare inequities, improving access to timely care, and building a more sustainable and resilient healthcare system for all Canadians.

We would be pleased to meet with your office to discuss these priorities further and to explore how the federal government can continue to support the essential work of Nurse Practitioners across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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