

**AGENDA**  
**Provincial/Territorial Health Ministers' Meeting**

**January 28 – 29, 2025**  
**Westin Nova Scotian**  
**1181 Hollis St, Halifax, NS B3H 2P6**

**Join Zoom meeting:**  
**<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/63971463153>**  
**Meeting ID: 639 7146 3153**  
**Passcode: 598945**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

<b>PT Welcome Reception – Atlantic Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>6:00 – 7:00 PM</b>
<b>PT Ministers' Private Dinner – Salt + Ash Beach House, 1741 Lower Water St #170, Halifax, NS B3J 0J2</b>	<b>7:00 – 9:00 PM</b>

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

<b>PT Ministers' Private Breakfast – Crown Suite, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor</b>	<b>7:45 – 8:45 AM</b>
<b>All Delegates' Breakfast – Atlantic Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>7:45 – 9:00 AM</b>
<b>PT Minister Group Photo – Atlantic Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>8:45 – 9:00 AM</b>
<b>Conference Commences – Commonwealth Ballroom A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<b>1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (NS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Elder Debbie Eisan from the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre to provide an opening prayer and welcome.</li><li>Minister Thompson to open the meeting with remarks.</li></ul>	<b>9:00 – 9:20 AM</b> <i>20 mins</i>
<b>2. Roundtable on Healthcare in Canadian Provinces and Territories (NS) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ministers will discuss key issues, challenges, and recent actions related to provincial and territorial health systems.</li></ul>	<b>9:20 – 10:10 AM</b> <i>50 mins</i>
<b>3. FPT Health Relations: Roles &amp; Responsibilities (ON) – for decision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ministers to discuss federal government commitments to support health care, as well as the FPT health landscape going forward.</li></ul>	<b>10:10 – 10:25 AM</b> <i>15 mins</i>
<b>4. Canada Health Act Interpretation Letter (ON) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ministers to discuss impacts and a potential response to the <i>Canada Health Act</i> Interpretation Letter.</li></ul>	<b>10:25 – 10:40 AM</b> <i>15 mins</i>

<b>5. PT Approaches to Bilateral Agreements (PEI) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers to discuss PT approaches to bilateral agreements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pharmacare</li> <li>Drugs for Rare Diseases</li> <li>Aging with Dignity Bilateral Agreement Amendment for Personal Support Workers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>10:40 – 11:10 AM</b> <b>30 mins</b>
<b>Break – Mezzanine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>11:10 – 11:20 AM</b> <b>10 mins</b>
<b>6. Council of the Federation Health Mandate – for discussion/decision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers to discuss work being undertaken to fulfill the December 24, 2024 COF Council of the Federation mandate letter on health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility of a common drug formulary for interested parties and potential next steps towards its creation (AB, PE)</li> <li>Improving mobility for physicians between provinces and territories (AB, PE, NL, YT)</li> <li>Improved alignment of training for physician specialists with anticipated future workforce needs by assessing which jurisdictions are training which physician specialists (i.e., radiologists, oncologists, etc.) and where more training capacity may be needed (AB, PE, NL)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>11:20 – 11:50 AM</b> <b>30 mins</b>
<b>7. PT Communiqué Review (NS) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will review the draft PT communiqué.</li> </ul>	<b>11:50 – 12:00 PM</b> <b>10 mins</b>
<b>PT Ministers’ Private Lunch – Crown Suite, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor</b> <b>All Delegates’ Lunch – Atlantic Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>12:00 – 1:00 PM</b> <b>1 hour</b>
<b>8. Federal Engagement on Mental Health and Substance Use (AB) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers to discuss federal engagement on the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> (CDSA) and policy approaches to broaden prescribing of narcotics and safe supply promotion.</li> </ul>	<b>1:00 – 1:30 PM</b> <b>30 mins</b>
<b>9. Mental Health Forum (AB) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers to discuss the proposed establishment of a PT Ministers’ Forum on Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery.</li> </ul>	<b>1:30 – 1:35 PM</b> <b>5 mins</b>

<b>10. Preparation for FPT HMM (NS) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers to discuss the agenda, decision items, and PT positioning to prepare for the FPT HMM on January 30, 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Health Workforce – 15 min</li> <li>b. Digital Health &amp; Health Data – 10 min</li> <li>c. Pharmaceuticals Management – 10 min</li> <li>d. Mental Health – 15 min</li> <li>e. PT perspectives on other agenda items – 10 min</li> <li>f. Discuss PT Narrative Document – 5 min</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>1:35 – 2:40 PM</b> 1 hr 5 mins
<b>11. PT Communiqué Review and Approval (NS) – for decision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will be asked to approve the draft PT communiqué.</li> </ul>	<b>2:40 – 2:55 PM</b> 15 mins
<b>12. Closing Remarks (NS)</b>	<b>2:55 – 3:00 PM</b> 5 mins
<b>Break – Mezzanine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>3:00 – 3:10 PM</b> 10 mins
<b>13. SITE VISIT: Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub (NS)</b> <b>1625 Grafton Street, 13th Floor, South Tower, Halifax, NS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will learn about the Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub, a first-of-its-kind centre of excellence for health research and innovation in Atlantic Canada. The presentation will focus on innovation in orthopedics, featuring Dr. Mike Dunbar and Dr. Emily Johnston.</li> <li>3:10 – Meet in Hotel Lobby</li> <li>3:10 – 3:20 – Transfer to NS Health Innovation Hub</li> <li>3:20 – 4:05 – Site Visit</li> <li>4:05 – 4:15 – Transfer to Hotel</li> </ul>	<b>3:10 – 4:15 PM</b> 1 hour 5 mins

#### Evening Events:

<b>*Special Reception on Health Care Collaboration and Reform (CMA/CFNU/CNA/CFPC) – Atlantic Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor</b>	<b>5:00 – 5:45 PM</b>
<b>FPT Welcome Reception – Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, 1055 Marginal Rd, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7</b>	<b>6:00 – 7:00 PM</b>
<b>FPT Ministers’ Private Dinner, Deputy Ministers’ Private Dinner, All Delegates’ Dinner – Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, 1055 Marginal Rd, Halifax, NS B3H 4P7</b>	<b>7:00 – 9:00 PM</b>

\*External stakeholder event

## **News Release – Conference of Provincial and Territorial Health Ministers**

*“Provinces and territories continue to take action in their respective jurisdictions to improve health outcomes for Canadians. Our healthcare systems are complex, and issues need to be addressed at their root causes. In Nova Scotia, we are looking for new solutions to old healthcare challenges. It is incredibly valuable to have opportunities to meet with our PT counterparts to discuss our shared interests and learn from one another.”*

*- Hon. Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness*

Provincial and territorial (PT) Health Ministers met on January 29, 2025, to address priorities to transform health systems and ensure that all Canadians have access to high-quality health care. They discussed various timely health topics, including health workforce challenges, mental health and substance use, the *Canada Health Act* Services Policy, and access to publicly funded medicines.

The Health Ministers’ meeting included a roundtable on key issues and challenges in health care. Ministers exchanged information about recently implemented solutions in their respective jurisdictions, learning from each other’s successful strategies to address common problems.

Ministers also engaged in a productive discussion regarding the current state of federal-provincial-territorial relations and bilateral agreements in health care. They reiterated that, to improve health care for all Canadians, the federal government needs to use its health funding to directly support, sustain and enhance the health services and initiatives of provinces and territories. Provinces and territories are responsible for health care delivery, and design programs and services that address the unique health care needs and priorities of their residents.

Ministers emphasized that there is no single approach to address health system challenges in Canada, as provinces and territories vary in their legislative, infrastructural, and economic contexts.

Our publicly funded health care systems are built around the principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility. PTs have the responsibility for delivering health care services to residents and for ensuring the long-term sustainability of our health systems. The PTs discussed the increased need for sustainable federal funding support for all aspects of the health system.

To this end, PTs are continuously looking for ways to innovate in our health systems to align with present and future realities of the health care landscape, and to ensure residents receive the right care in the right place from the right provider, including in collaborative team-based care environments.

PTs expect a federal partner that meaningfully engages and financially supports publicly funded health care systems, encourages innovation, supports PT strategies to improve access to health care, and understands the evolving nature of health systems. PTs called on the federal government specifically to uphold its funding obligations to Indigenous Peoples. It is recognized that PTs are providing additional resources because of federal funding shortfalls, including mental health and addiction recovery, and medical travel.

Canadians expect all orders of government to work together to improve our health care systems while upholding the principles of our universal health care system.

Provincial and territorial Health Ministers tasked senior officials to examine the current intergovernmental health landscape and develop strategic options for future federal-provincial-territorial engagement. The priority is to strengthen pan-Canadian collaboration to improve health care access, delivery and health outcomes for all Canadians through their respective jurisdictions.

A portion of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on mental health and addiction related issues faced in communities across the country. Ministers responsible for Mental Health and Substance Use explored establishing a dedicated mental health, addiction and recovery forum that is distinct from the Health Ministers table. Ministers also considered the risks versus benefits of broadening prescribing powers for narcotics to other health care professionals and recognized the need for substantive consultation, and for effective regulation by PTs within their areas of jurisdiction.

Ministers also gained insights into transformative health care work through a presentation from the Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub. Dr. Michael Dunbar and Dr. Emily Johnson highlighted the impact of innovation in shaping the future of orthopedic care.

The Health Ministers' Meeting marked the end of Nova Scotia's term as chair of the provincial-territorial health table. The Province of Alberta is set to take on the chair role next.

*"Provinces and territories are committed to ensuring Canadians can access the care they need through effective health care systems. It is essential we continue working together across jurisdictions to build constructive relationships with our federal counterparts that result in adequate, long-term funding for our unique PT healthcare systems."*

*- Hon. Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness*

NOTE: *Ontario is not a party to this communiqué as it is in an election period.*

# FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING

JANUARY 29-30, 2025  
THE WESTIN NOVA SCOTIAN, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Link to Join the Zoom Meeting  
<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/69262249985>

Details to join by telephone  
MEETING ID: 692 6224 9985  
PARTICIPANT CODE: 576890

## ~ Itinerary ~

Wednesday, January 29, 2025	
<b>FPT Reception</b> <i>Location: Pier 21 (First Floor – Rudolph P. Bratty Hall )</i>	6:00 – 7:00 pm
<b>FPT Ministers’ Private Dinner</b> <i>Location: Pier 21 (First Floor - Anne Risley Gateway)</i>	7:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>FPT Deputy Ministers’ Private Dinner</b> <i>Location: Pier 21 (First Floor - Rudolph P. Bratty Hall)</i>	7:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>All Delegates’ Dinner</b> <i>Location: Pier 21 (First Floor - Mirella and Lino Saputo Hall)</i>	7:00 – 9:00 pm
Thursday, January 30, 2025	
<b>All Delegates’ Breakfast</b> <i>Location: Atlantic Ballroom (Second Floor)</i>	7:30 – 8:30 am
<b>Ministers’ Photo</b> <i>Location: Atlantic Ballroom (Second Floor)</i>	8:45 – 9:00 am
<b>FPT Ministers’ Meeting Begins</b> <i>Location: Commonwealth Ballroom A (Second Floor)</i>	9:00 am
<b>FPT Ministers’ Lunch:</b> <i>Location: Crown Suite (11th Floor)</i>	12:25 – 1:25 pm
<b>All Delegates’ Lunch</b> <i>Location: Atlantic Ballroom (Second Floor)</i>	12:25 – 1:25 pm
<b>FPT Ministers’ Meeting Concludes</b> <i>Location: Commonwealth Ballroom A (second Floor)</i>	3:20 pm
<b>Intermission</b> <i>Location: Mezzanine (Second Floor)</i>	3:20 – 3:30 pm

<b>FPT Press Conference</b> Location: <i>Atlantic Ballroom (Second Floor)</i>	<b>3:30 – 4:15 pm</b>
--	-----------------------

~ FPT Ministers' Meeting Agenda ~ Thursday, January 30, 2025	
<b>1. Welcome and Opening Prayer (NS/CAN)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elder Debbie from the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre will provide an opening prayer and welcome, followed by opening remarks by Ministers Thompson and Holland.</li> </ul>	<b>9:00 – 9:15 am</b>
<b>2. State of Canada's Health Systems (NS/CAN)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will engage in a broader discussion on the state of Canada's health systems and collaboration on joint priorities.</li> </ul>	<b>9:15 – 9:45 am</b>
<b>3. Canada Health Act (CAN) – for discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will discuss the <i>Canada Health Act Services Policy</i>, as outlined by the interpretation letter issued on January 9, 2025 by Minister Holland.</li> </ul>	<b>9:45 – 10:00 am</b>
<b>Health Workforce (NL/CAN)</b>	<b>10:00 – 10:50 am</b>
<b>4. Education and Training Supply and Demand Study – for decision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will discuss the study's outcomes and next steps as they pertain to identifying pan-Canadian approaches to meet future health care demands and addressing misalignment in the distribution of workers across regions and settings.</li> <li>Ministers will be asked to endorse the publication of the study (TBD).</li> </ul>	<b>10:00 – 10:30 am</b>
<b>5. Ethical Recruitment Framework – for decision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will be asked to endorse and agree to publicly release a Canadian ethical recruitment framework as guidance for recruitment and retention of international health personnel.</li> </ul>	<b>10:30 – 10:50 am</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>10:50 – 11:05 am</b>

<b>Digital Health and Health Data (BC/CAN)</b>	<b>11:05 am – 12:10 pm</b>
<b>6. State of Digital Health and Health Data – <i>for discussion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will engage in open discussion on successes and challenges in modernizing Canada’s health systems through improvements in digital health and health data, highlight achievements made over the past year, and review the October 2024 report on <b>common indicators from the Canadian Institute on Health Information</b> to better assess how the overall health system is working.</li> </ul>	<b>11:05 – 11:35 am</b>
<b>7. Guiding Principles for the Use of Artificial Intelligence – <i>for decision</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will be asked to approve guiding principles for the ethical and responsible use of AI in health to better support its adoption into health care in Canada.</li> </ul>	<b>11:35 am – 12:00 pm</b>
<b>8. Renewed Instrument for pan-Canadian Public Health Data Sharing – <i>for decision</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will be asked to endorse a framework for a renewed multi-lateral data sharing instrument.</li> </ul>	<b>12:00 – 12:10 pm</b>
<b>9. Initial Review of Communiqué (NS/CAN)</b>	<b>12:10 pm – 12:25 pm</b>
<b>Ministers’ Private Lunch – Location: <i>Crown Suite (11th Floor)</i></b>	<b>12:25 – 1:25 pm</b>
<b>All Delegates’ Lunch – Location: <i>Atlantic Ballroom (Second Floor)</i></b>	<b>12:25 – 1:25 pm</b>
<b>Mental Health and Substance Use (NS/CAN)</b>	<b>1:25 – 2:15 pm</b>
<b>10. Roundtable on the Overdose Crisis – <i>for discussion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will be invited to share updates and responses to the overdose crisis, and discuss areas for national collaboration to address gaps and challenges, including in treatment services and supports.</li> </ul>	<b>1:25 – 2:15 pm</b>
<b>Public Health Priorities (YT/CAN)</b>	<b>2:15 – 2:35 pm</b>
<b>11. Advancing FPTI Pandemic Preparedness – <i>for decision</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will be asked to endorse an approach to advance pan-Canadian pandemic preparedness, noting collaborative priority areas of work and a commitment to FPTI collaboration.</li> </ul>	<b>2:15 – 2:35 pm</b>
<b>Pharmaceuticals (CAN)</b>	<b>2:35 – 3:00 pm</b>
<b>12. Pharmaceuticals Management – <i>for discussion</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers will receive updates on and discuss pharmaceutical files, including Pharmacare and the national strategy on drugs for rare diseases.</li> </ul>	<b>2:35 – 3:00 pm</b>
<b>13. Finalization of Communiqué (NS/CAN)</b>	<b>3:00 – 3:15 pm</b>



<b>14. Closing Remarks (NS/CAN)</b>	<b>3:15 – 3:20 pm</b>
<b>Intermission – Location: <i>Mezzanine (Second Floor)</i></b>	<b>3:20 – 3:30 pm</b>
<b>Press Conference – Location: <i>Atlantic Ballroom (Second Floor)</i></b>	<b>3:30 – 4:15 pm</b>
<b><i>End of Conference</i></b>	<b>4:15pm</b>

## **Federal Provincial Territorial Health Ministers' Meeting**

**From:** [Health Canada](#)

### **Statement**

The annual meeting of Canada's Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Health was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from January 29 to 30, 2025. Ministers discussed shared priorities within the health sector, including the health workforce, digital health and health data, mental health and substance use, public health, and pharmaceuticals.\*

Ministers held a productive discussion on the importance of respecting jurisdictional roles and responsibilities for each order of government. They took stock on the state of Canada's health systems, noting where there has been progress and identifying opportunities for collaboration where challenges remain. All governments are collaborating based on the principle of mutual respect for each government's roles and responsibilities, including exclusive provincial and territorial jurisdiction for the planning, organization, and management of their health care systems.

The issue of greater Indigenous engagement in intergovernmental work was raised and it was agreed further discussion on a future agenda was warranted. In addition, the unique challenges for Territories in providing comparable health care services to rural and remote northern communities and the need for ongoing collaboration with provinces was acknowledged. Ministers discussed the need to monitor developments and work together to respond to any impacts on Canada's health systems stemming from developments in the United States.

### **Canada Health Act**

Ministers discussed the recently announced [Canada Health Act Interpretation letter](#) issued by the federal Minister of Health. Ministers discussed the importance of predictable and sustainable investments by all jurisdictions to support publicly funded health care systems, of encouraging innovation and advancing provincial and territorial strategies to improve access to health care. Ministers also discussed the need for ongoing collaboration on how virtual care is being integrated into their health systems.

### **Health Workforce**

The health workforce is the backbone of health systems. Significant progress has been made on commitments Ministers made toward enhancing health workforce retention and domestic supply; streamlining the recognition of internationally educated health professionals; and breaking down barriers that prevent labour mobility.

Today, Health Ministers received the findings of a [study](#) on the education, training and distribution of health care workers in Canada. The study was conducted in response to Ministers' commitment to enhance Canada's capacity to build a domestic supply of health professionals and identifies possible actions to help meet health care demands in Canada. The study provides an overall analysis of the potential growth in supply and demand of key health professionals but identifies some important data gaps.

While the study projects anticipated shortages for some key health professions over the next 10 years, substantial growth is expected in other areas including the supply of nurse practitioners and

physiotherapists. The study also finds that Indigenous Peoples face significant under-representation in the health workforce. Ministers noted this is an important initial phase of work and that projections will continue to evolve as measures are implemented. They requested that an FPT workplan be developed to address recommendations and next steps, which include increased collaboration between education and health sectors and more training opportunities for Indigenous Peoples developed in partnership with them. Health Ministers also acknowledged the important role of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and Health Workforce Canada (HWC) in supporting improved health workforce data and modeling capacity across Canada.

In addition, Ministers approved an ethical recruitment framework (the Framework) that will help guide the international recruitment of health personnel through key principles, such as global cooperation, transparency, fairness, accountability, and mutuality of benefits. FPT governments will work together to build awareness of the Framework and support its implementation with tools, resources and metrics.

### **Digital Health and Health Data**

Better data sharing and access to personal health data will positively impact Canadians' ability to be active participants in their own care and will empower clinicians with enhanced patient information to support team-based care and improved patient outcomes. Aggregated and de-identified health data is equally critical to system planners, decision makers, and researchers to improve health systems and overall health outcomes. Ministers reviewed achievements made over the past year, including advancements in adopting standards needed to share health data within and, when appropriate, across systems, while safeguarding privacy. They also discussed recommendations to further improve the responsible stewardship of personal health information.

Ministers discussed the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI), which could enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of health care services in Canada when appropriately harnessed. They noted the importance of accelerated adoption of AI, while strengthening safeguards for ethical and responsible use. Ministers approved the [pan-Canadian AI for Health \(AI4H\) Guiding Principles](#), which outline shared values intended to guide each governments' efforts to support responsible and ethical adoption and use of AI across Canada's health systems.

Ministers also agreed to continue work to [modernize the sharing of public health data](#) between federal, provincial, and territorial governments and on a common approach to this work. This will build on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, incorporate Indigenous perspectives and enable more timely and effective responses to public health challenges.

### **Mental Health and Substance Use**

Ministers continue to be seized with the impact of the ongoing overdose crisis as a serious public health concern, and the challenges related to mental health and addiction being faced by Canadians. While it is encouraging to see some signs of decreased rates of opioid and stimulant-related harms, the scale of these harms remains significant. Ministers discussed promising practices for mental health and substance use, and identified areas where further collaboration could enhance ongoing efforts to improve services and supports in a continuum of care, including for treatment and recovery. Ministers also discussed the need to continue to improve data

collection and continually measure the results of actions in keeping with the evolving evidence of what works and in what context.

### **Public Health Priorities**

Lessons learned from COVID-19 have highlighted the need to revitalize pandemic preparedness planning for all jurisdictions. Ministers provided support for governments and Indigenous partners to work together, with respect for each governments' jurisdiction over public health, on an approach and plan to advance pandemic preparedness, including Canada's Pandemic Preparedness Plan.

### **Pharmaceuticals Management**

Ministers discussed the federal government's intent to develop the National Universal Pharmacare program and the continued implementation of the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases and negotiations on agreements with provinces and territories. While this is an important first step to improve health equity, Ministers highlighted the need for these initiatives to enhance rather than duplicate the existing programs of provinces and territories, maintain flexibility to customize these programs, and meet the needs of their residents to improve health equity, affordability and health outcomes. PT Ministers agreed those negotiations should consider the distinct situation, programs and priorities of each province and territory.

### **Conclusion**

Public, accessible, and effective health systems are one of the defining achievements of Canada. Ministers will continue working together to uphold the *Canada Health Act* and assure Canadians that their health and well-being will always remain a priority for all orders of government.

\*Québec participated in the meeting as an observer and is not party to this communiqué as it remains fully committed to exercising its own responsibilities within its exclusive jurisdiction over health care and has not adhered to the pan-Canadian strategies concerning human resources, data and virtual care, mental health and public health nor does it recognize the authority of the *Canada Health Act* over its health system. Québec intends to retain its full autonomy with regard to planning, organization, and management of its health system, including drug insurance. However, Québec remains open to sharing information and best practices with other governments in these areas.

\*\*Ontario is not a party to this communiqué as it is in an election period.