



Open letter to Members of Parliament of Canada's 42nd Parliament

On behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation **Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery**, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all MPs as they begin the important work of this new Parliament.

The Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery (CPSR) is a *unique model* of collaboration, bringing together the Heart and Stroke Foundation (one of the country's largest health charities) and university- and hospital-based researchers from across Canada.

Together, the partners are investing in shared platforms and infrastructure, training the next generation of scientific leaders, and identifying targeted research in order to restore lives affected by stroke disability. In fact, the CPSR approach to identifying and fast-tracking science is so innovative that it is being studied by other disease groups and emulated by research teams in Australia and Sweden.

Why is the focus on stroke recovery so important? Despite advances in stroke prevention and acute care, the number of people living with long-term disabilities caused by stroke will increase significantly over the coming years as the population ages. A report in the medical journal *Stroke*, published in 2015, estimates at least 405,000 Canadians are living with long-term stroke disability and this number will increase to 725,000 by 2038.

In terms of the economic impact, the cost of caring for those with long-term stroke disability is estimated at \$3.6 billion a year. But that doesn't even begin to measure the price of stroke on the lives of individuals and families

With this letter, we invite you to learn more about promising new approaches to repair the brain and restore what has been lost after stroke. We are doing studies involving stem cells, electrical stimulation, tele-rehabilitation, optogenetics, cognitive and physical exercise and more. We would be happy to arrange a tour of any of our research facilities or a personal briefing from one of the country's top scientists.

Until we meet, best wishes for a productive 42nd Parliament. We pledge to support your work to build this great country and to enrich the lives of its people.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dale Corbett, Scientific Director and CEO, HSF Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery; Professor, Neurosciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa

Barry Cracower
Chair of the Board of Directors
Heart and Stroke Foundation Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery