



January 29, 2019

Hon. Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and
Economic Development
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0H5

Hon. Kirsty Duncan
Minister of Science and Sport
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0H5

Dear Ministers,

As organizations representing the full health innovation continuum, we commend the federal government for creating the Council on Science and Innovation (CSI) and for its continuing commitment to advancing science and innovation in Canada. Canada needs a focused, coordinated strategy to improve its national and global innovation competitiveness, and the CSI is an opportunity to crystallize our national science and innovation ambition, and deliver results for Canadians.

Of utmost importance, CSI will embody the full range of innovation disciplines and sectors, and **we would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the significance of having strong representation from the health research and biosciences sector on the Council.** Collectively, our members play a vital role in strengthening Canada's innovation system—and we are delighted that the government has specifically acknowledged our sector as one that holds high growth potential.

The hard work of Canada's researchers has led to the discoveries and innovations that are powering a brighter future for all Canadians. Health research plays a critical role in improving health outcomes for Canadians and people around the world. From the discovery of insulin to the invention of the pacemaker – and from global leadership in regenerative medicine to advances in artificial intelligence that will transform how we predict, detect, treat and manage illness – Canada has an enviable track record and exciting potential in health research and innovation. In a time of rapid technological change, advances in the health and biosciences sector has the ability to leverage our healthcare system and achieve promising health outcomes for Canadians.

The health and biosciences sector does not only innovate for health to keep our population healthier and more productive, but it also innovates for wealth. The Canadian health research enterprise and biosciences industries are an integral part of the innovation clusters across the country that are creating new small- and medium-sized enterprises, producing the next generation of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) and building a knowledge-based economy that is attracting

global investments. Our sector's role in contributing to the overall economic prosperity of our country is supported by the Advisory Council on Economic Growth and the Health and Biosciences Economic Strategy Table, which report that the health and biosciences sector employs 1 in 8 Canadians and represents 11% of Canada's annual GDP.

Our members are leaders in health innovation. Collectively, we are helping to position Canada as a destination for investment and talent, growing our health and biosciences sector to support a more sustainable health system while advancing Canada's prosperity.

It is for these reasons that Canada's health and biosciences sector has earned a seat at the CSI table.

Several highly-skilled and qualified researchers from our respective member institutions have expressed interest and submitted applications for a seat on the CSI. We would be pleased to provide you with a list of our representatives.

As stakeholders and stewards of Canada's health and biosciences research and innovation sector, we look forward to supporting and working with the CSI to strengthen the Canadian science and research ecosystem.


Sincerely,



Paul-Émile Cloutier
President and CEO
HealthCareCAN



Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety
President and CEO
Research Canada



Dr. Geneviève Moineau
President and CEO
Association of Faculties of
Medicine of Canada



Connie Cote
Chief Executive Officer
Health Charities
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Brian Lewis
President and CEO
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President and CEO
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President and CEO
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