



**October 14, 2016**

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**Honourable Brian Gallant**  
**Premier of New Brunswick**  
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**Honourable Victor Boudreau**  
**New Brunswick Minister of Health**  
**HSBC Place**  
**P. O. Box 5100**  
**Fredericton, NB**  
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**RE: Improving health and healthcare in New Brunswick  
through wise public investment**

Premier Gallant and Minister Boudreau,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (CACHC) we invite you to review important findings from the 2016 Canadian Survey of Community Health Centres at: [www.cachc.ca/2016survey](http://www.cachc.ca/2016survey)

Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been called “Medicare’s best kept secret”. They provide a triple bottom line solution: improved individual health, improved community and population health, and more cost-effective healthcare and social service systems.

CHCs are multi-sector health and healthcare organizations that operate through a comprehensive primary health care approach. Care teams at CHCs are comprised of family physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, counselors and other providers who wrap care around individual needs, ensuring the right care, by the right provider, at the right time. These care services are integrated with a range of health promotion programs, social services, and community health initiatives.

At a time when governments across Canada are looking to strengthen community infrastructure and provide transformative change through more cost-effective public services, we want to take this opportunity to re-introduce you to CHCs.

CHCs have been driving innovation in integrated health and social services across Canada ever since the first CHC (Mount Carmel Clinic) was established 90 years ago, in Winnipeg. They have the potential to address many of our country’s most urgent and intersecting priorities, and this holds true for New Brunswick.

Results from the 2016 Canadian CHCs Survey affirm that CHCs work across multiple sectors (healthcare, seniors services, housing, immigration and settlement, and other sectors), converting our fragmented health and social systems...



The Canadian Association of Community Health Centres is the federal voice for Community Health Centres and community-oriented, people-centred primary health care across Canada.

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...into more accessible and navigable services for people at the local level. What's more, they engage members of the community in identifying evolving needs and priorities in the community.

Not only does this integrated, community-centred approach optimize the various public services upon which Canadians rely, it improves health outcomes and helps build social capital in diverse communities across Canada.

Despite the critical role played by CHCs, results from the 2016 CHCs Survey also paint an alarming picture about serious operational and capital pressures faced by CHCs across the country.

Across Canada, 94% of existing CHCs report significant operational pressures impacting their ability to fulfill their mandate in serving Canadians. 69% of CHCs also report capital funding needs related to outstanding repairs and space enhancements. Moreover, very large numbers of communities throughout Canada, including New Brunswick, still do not have access to a CHC.

CHCs can play an even more powerful role in helping the Government of New Brunswick to fulfill its mandate in improving the health and wellbeing of New Brunswick residents. We sincerely call for your collaboration in stewarding this process.

The need to shift attention and public investment toward the integrated CHC approach is one that must be embraced by all provinces, as well as the federal government. That is why we are strongly encouraging the federal government and provinces to ensure that funding for CHCs is embedded in the forthcoming federal/provincial/territorial Health Accord.

The Health Accord provides a fresh opportunity to advance a shared commitment to transformative change in health and social services across Canada. We respectfully urge the Government of New Brunswick to echo this call for dedicated funding to the provinces for CHCs.

We appreciate that the provinces/territories and federal government have already made some progress in outlining initial priorities for the forthcoming Health Accord: home care, mental health services, improved prescription drug care, and 'innovation', for instance. We believe strongly that concurrent investment in CHCs across Canada is essential in order to ensure that implementation of strategies in those areas results in services that are accessible and equitable for all, and that these services are connected to other sectors that impact health.



Over the coming months, our association and provincial counterparts will be providing governments across the country with further analysis and recommendations on improving the health and wellbeing of Canadians through Community Health Centres.

In the meantime, we would be pleased to discuss the value and potential of CHCs with you and members of your Cabinet. We would also be very honoured to work with our New Brunswick CHC network to arrange visits to existing CHCs throughout the province so that you may see firsthand how CHCs are already improving accessibility, quality and impact of public services for individuals, families and communities.

Respectfully yours,

**Irene Clarence**  
**Executive Director, Mid-Main CHC**  
**Chair, CACHC Board of Directors**  
**Vancouver, BC**

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cc:

Hon. John B. Ames - Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture  
Hon. Donald Arseneault - Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister responsible for Official Languages, Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation  
Hon. Ed Doherty - Minister of Service New Brunswick, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction and the Economic and Social Inclusion Corporation  
Hon. Rick Doucet - Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Minister of Energy and Resource Development, Government House Leader  
Hon. Bill Fraser - Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Minister responsible for the Northern and Miramichi Funds  
Hon. Lisa Harris - Minister responsible for Seniors and Long-Term Care, Minister responsible for Celtic Affairs  
Hon. Stephen Horsman - Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for Families and Children, Minister responsible for Military Affairs  
Hon. Denis Landry - Minister of Justice and Public Safety  
Hon. Brian Kenny - Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Hon. Francine Landry - Minister of Economic Development, Minister responsible for La Francophonie, Minister responsible for Opportunities NB  
Hon. Roger Melanson - President of the Treasury Board, Minister responsible for Trade Policy  
Hon. Cathy Rogers - Minister of Finance, Minister responsible for Literacy  
Hon. Serge Rousselle - Minister of Environment and Local Government, Attorney General  
Lorri Amos - Nurse Manager, Central Miramichi Community Health Centre and New Brunswick Representative to CACHC Board of Directors (Doaktown, NB)