Report

National Healthcare Survey





DATE Jan 24, 2022 **PROJECT NUMBER** 25105-001



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Methodology



Online survey with representative sample of 2,614 Canadian adults 18+. Survey was made available in both English and French.



Data collection: January 6-17, 2022



To ensure a fully representative sample, data weighted by age, gender, and region based on Statistics Canada data



Significant differences between areas marked as follows:

▲ Statistically significantly higher than Total.

▼ Statistically significantly lower than Total.









Sample	Sample Size	Margin of Error 19/20*
Newfoundland and Labrador	132	<u>+</u> 8.5%
Nova Scotia	172	<u>+</u> 7.5%
PEI	126	<u>+</u> 8.7%
New Brunswick	159	+7.8%
Quebec	476	<u>+</u> 4.5%
Ontario	775	<u>+</u> 3.5%
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	139	<u>+</u> 8.3%
Alberta	223	<u>+</u> 6.6%
British Columbia	272	<u>+</u> 5.9%
Territories	140	<u>+</u> 8.3%
Total	2614	<u>+</u> 1.9%

^{*}Technically, a margin of error cannot be associated with a nonprobability sample survey.







KEY FINDINGS

Canadians believe that healthcare is one of the most important domestic issues facing Canada today.

However, 56% of Canadians believe that the quality of healthcare provided in their province or territory has worsened over the past 5 years.

Even more Canadians believe that the pandemic has exacerbated these issues - 78% believe the pandemic has had a large negative impact on Canada's healthcare systems.

Across all provinces, increased wait times and backlogs for surgery and other procedures and doctor/nursing shortages as a result of burnout are the top perceived negative impacts of the pandemic. These are identified as the top healthcare priorities if there was more money for healthcare coming from the federal government.

As a result, 82% of Canadians are worried about getting health services when they are needed and 87% of Canadians agree that an immediate increase in funding and resources is needed to help alleviate the considerable strain the pandemic on their province or territory's healthcare system. Beyond this, 78% of Canadians agree that for long-term improvements in healthcare the federal government's funding must be sustainable and maintained over time.

Few Canadians (22%) believe that the federal government currently provides an adequate amount of funding to provinces/territories to properly deliver health services to citizens and even fewer (10%) believe this when they learn that funding has declined from 50% to 22% since 1960. 56% feel it is unfair that the provinces and territories have to make up over three-quarters of the cost of providing healthcare service in Canada. Half of Canadians, and more so those who live in smaller provinces, are concerned that if the provincial and territorial share of healthcare spending continues to increase, larger provinces will have a better system and smaller provinces or territories will have a poorer health system.

65% of Canadians agree that their provincial or territorial government is best able to determine healthcare spending needs in their province/territory compared to 11% who believe that the federal government is best able. 84% believe that provinces and territories should have the flexibility to adapt healthcare funding to their specific needs.



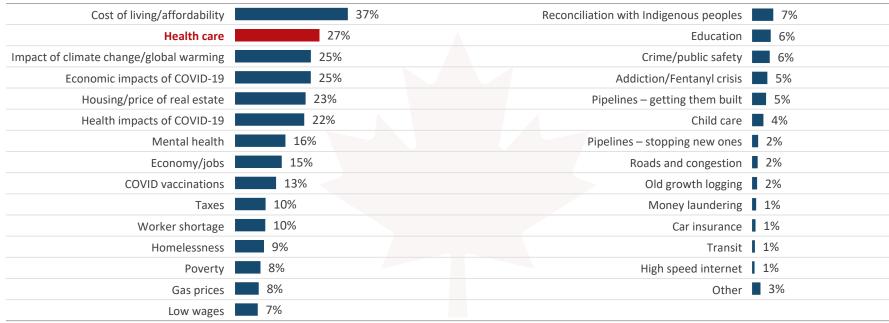




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Relative Importance of Healthcare (Aided, Top 3)

Just over one-quarter believe healthcare is one of the most important domestic issues facing Canada today – only behind cost of living/affordability.



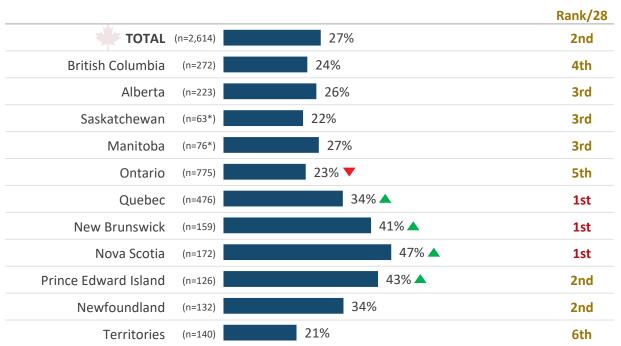






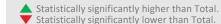
Importance of Healthcare (Aided, Top 3)

x REGION



Healthcare is consistently ranked as one of the top domestic issues facing Canada across all provinces and Territories.



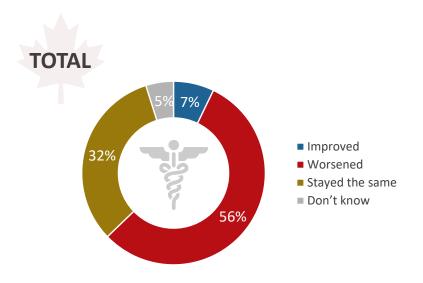


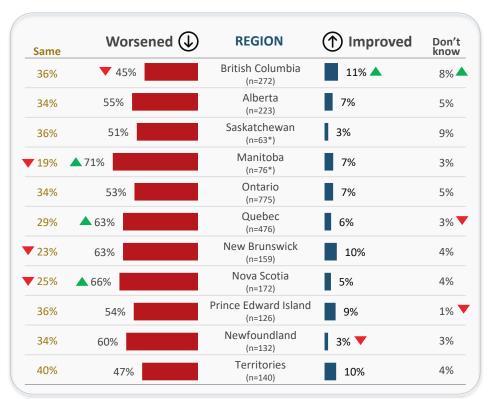




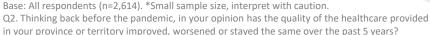
Perceived Change in Healthcare Quality Over Past 5 Years

Over half of Canadians believe that the quality of healthcare provided in their province or territory has worsened over the past 5 years.





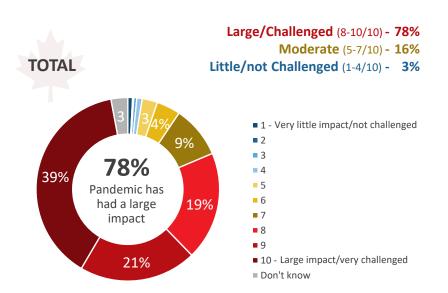


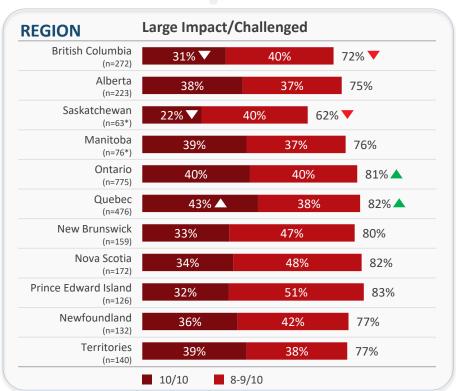




Perceived Impact of Pandemic on Healthcare

Three-quarters of Canadians say that the pandemic has had a large negative impact on Canada's healthcare systems.













Biggest Negative Consequence/Impact of Pandemic(Aided)

Across all provinces, increased wait times and backlogs for surgery and other procedures and doctor/nursing shortages as a result of burnout are the top perceived negative impacts of the pandemic.

		REGION										
	TOTAL	ВС	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TRT
	TOTAL	(n=272)	(n=223)	(n=63*)	(n=76*)	(n=775)	(n=476)	(n=159)	(n=172)	(n=126)	(n=132)	(n=180)
Wait time increases and backlogs for surgery, diagnostic tests, and other procedures		42%	57%▲	52%	46%	37%▼	41%	44%	49%	41%	61%	39%
Doctor and nursing shortages as a result of burn-out from the pandemic		32%	25%▼	17%▼	33%	35%	41%	33%	42%	36%	19%▼	46%
The need to increase staffing and update safety procedures at personal and long-term care homes	11%	10%	6% ▼	9%	7%	13%▲	11%	11%	5%▼	14%	10%	8%
The need to expand Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity in preparation for the next pandemic	7%	7%	9%	9%	6%	9% 🔺	4% ▼	4%	3%▼	4%	2% ▼	6%
Don't know	6%	8%	3% ▼	13%	8%	6%	3% ▼	7%	2%▼	5%	7%	2%▼





Statistically significantly higher than Total.

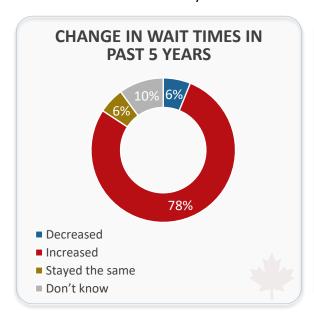
Statistically significantly lower than Total.

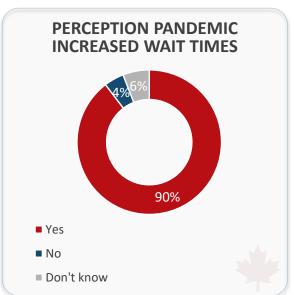


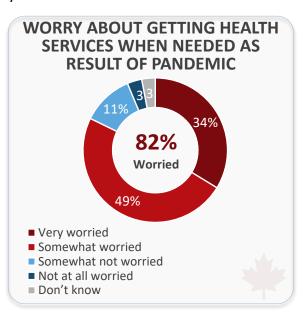
Healthcare Wait Times



Three-quarters of Canadians feel wait times for common procedures have increased over the past 5 years, while 90% feel the pandemic has increased the wait time to access healthcare services. 4-in-5 Canadian adults are worried about getting health services and treatments when they are needed as a result of the pandemic's impact on the health system.









Q9. Do you feel the wait times for common procedures such as joint replacements, cataract surgery or seeing a specialist have decreased, increased or stayed the same over the past 5 years? Q8. Do you feel the COVID pandemic increased the wait time to access healthcare services in your province or territory?

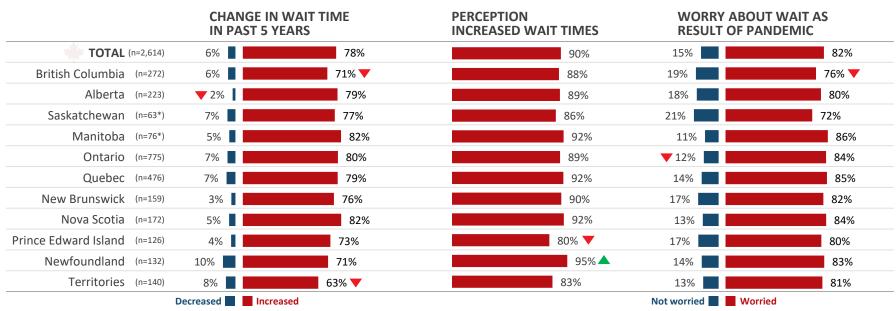


Healthcare Wait Times



x REGION

Across Canada, the story remains the same overall – most Canadian adults feel wait times have increased over the past 5 years and have been made worse by the pandemic. As a result, there is a high level of worry about the ability to get necessary medical treatments when they're needed.





Base: All respondents. *Small sample size, interpret with caution.

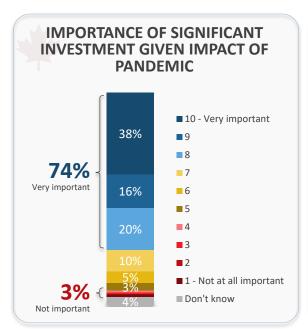
Q9. Do you feel the wait times for common procedures such as joint replacements, cataract surgery or seeing a specialist have decreased, increased or stayed the same over the past 5 years? Q8. Do you feel the COVID pandemic increased the wait time to access healthcare services in your province or territory? Q10. Are you worried or not worried about getting health services and treatments when you need them as a result of the pandemic's impact on the health system?

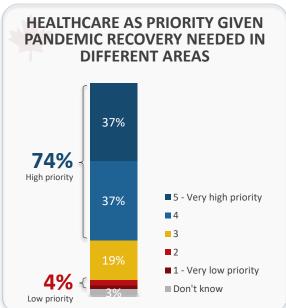


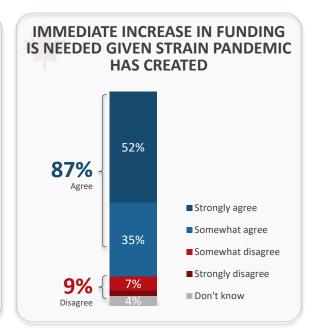


Healthcare Funding

Three-quarters of Canadians believe it's very important that there is a significant investment of money and resources to help health systems recover after the pandemic and a similar proportion say it should be a high priority. 87% agree that because of the pandemic there should be an immediate increase in funding and resources. Very few believe it's not important/a low priority.









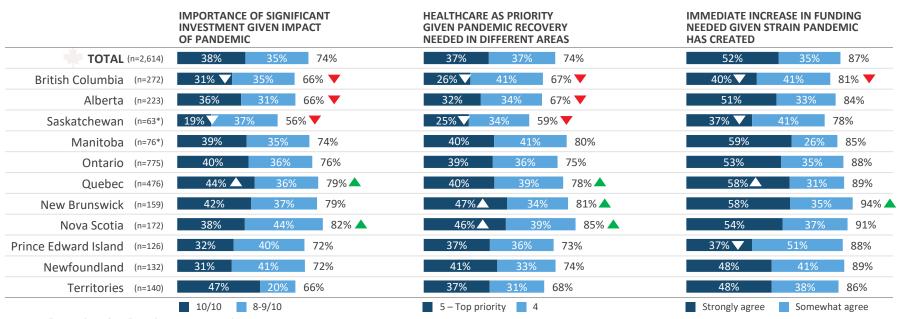
Q4. Thinking of the pandemic's impact on your province or territory's healthcare system, how important is it that there be a significant investment of money and resources to help your health system recover after the pandemic? Q5. When it comes to the different areas governments will be focused on as Canada emerges from the COVID pandemic, how would you rate the need in your province or territory to invest more money and resources to support healthcare as a priority. Q6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The pandemic has put a considerable strain on my province or territory's healthcare system, and it requires an immediate increase in funding and resources.

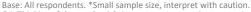






Eastern provinces are more likely to believe there should be a significant investment in healthcare funding and that it should be a priority to help emerge from the pandemic.





Q4. Thinking of the pandemic's impact on your province or territory's healthcare system, how important is it that there be a significant investment of money and resources to help your health system recover after the pandemic? Q5. When it comes to the different areas governments will be focused on as Canada emerges from the COVID pandemic, how would you rate the need in your province or territory to invest more money and resources to support healthcare as a priority. Q6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The pandemic has put a considerable strain on my province or territory's healthcare system, and it requires an immediate increase in funding and resources.



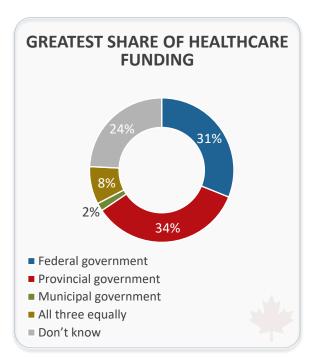


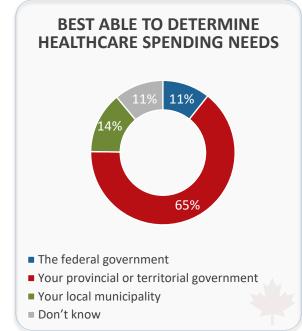


Currently, Canadians are divided on who they believe provides the greatest share of healthcare funding in Canada.

Two-thirds of Canadians believe their provincial or territorial government is best able to determine healthcare spending needs in their province or territory.

Perception of Healthcare Funding Roles









Perception of Healthcare Funding Roles



x REGION

Across Canada, Canadians are most likely to believe that their provincial/territorial government is best able to determine healthcare spending needs.

	TOTAL	REGION											
Greatest Share of		ВС	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TRT	
Healthcare Funding	(n=2,614)	(n=272)	(n=223)	(n=63*)	(n=76*)	(n=775)	(n=476)	(n=159)	(n=172)	(n=126)	(n=132)	(n=180)	
Federal government	31%	31%	32%	35%	49%	29%	29%	36%	35%	52%▲	43%	53%	
Provincial government	34%	31%	33%	25%	14% ▼	32%▼	49%	29%	28%	23%▼	26%▼	15%	
Municipal government	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%	3%	<1%▼	1%	1%	1%	
All three equally	8%	11%	6%	14%	13%	11%	3% ▼	7%	10%	6%	6%	6%	
Don't know	24%	25%	26%	22%	22%	27%	18% ▼	25%	27%	17%	23%	26%	
Best Able to Determine Healthcare Spending Needs													
The federal government	11%	8% ▼	11%	17%	10%	11%	11%	15%	12%	3% ▼	8%	15%	
Your provincial or territorial government	65%	73% 📥	67%	61%	59%	56%▼	72% 📥	57%	70%	84%	73%	74%	
Your local municipality	14%	9% ▼	15%	10%	9%	19% 📥	10%	15%	11%	3% ▼	8% ▼	3% ▼	
Don't know	11%	10%	8% 🔻	12%	21%	14%	7% ▼	13%	7% V	9%	11%	8%	





Q12. Who provides the greatest share of healthcare funding currently in Canada?

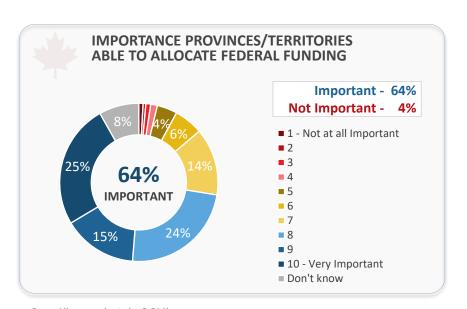
Q18. Which level of government is best able to determine healthcare spending needs in your province or territory?

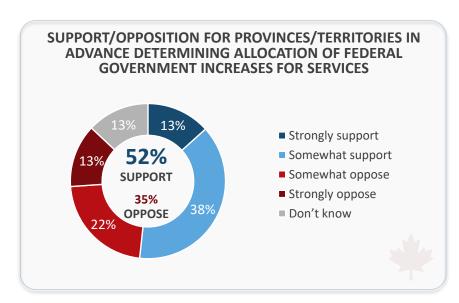




Roles in Allocating Federal Funding

Two-thirds of Canadians believe it's important that provinces and territories are able to allocate federal funding based on their own healthcare priorities. Half of Canadians would support the federal government increasing healthcare funding to provinces and territories if it was only for services that provinces and territories determine in advance.









Q16. Currently, the federal government's primary role when it comes to healthcare is to provide funding to the provinces and territories which they use to directly provide health services to citizens based on their priorities. How important is it that the provinces and territories are able to allocate federal funding based on their own healthcare priorities, where '1' means it is not at all important and '10' means it is very important? Q17. The federal government has suggested it could increase healthcare funding to provinces and territories but would direct where that money should be spent instead. Would you support or oppose the federal government increasing healthcare funding to provinces and territories but only for services that provinces and territories determine in advance?



Roles in Allocating Federal Funding

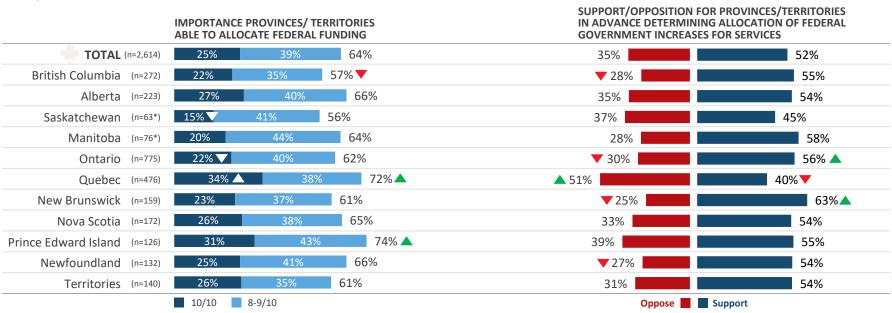
and territories but would direct where that money should be spent instead. Would you support or oppose the federal government increasing

healthcare funding to provinces and territories but only for services that provinces and territories determine in advance?



x REGION

Quebec residents are significantly less likely to support federal government increases in funding if the services must be determined in advance by the province.



Base: All respondents. *Small sample size, interpret with caution.

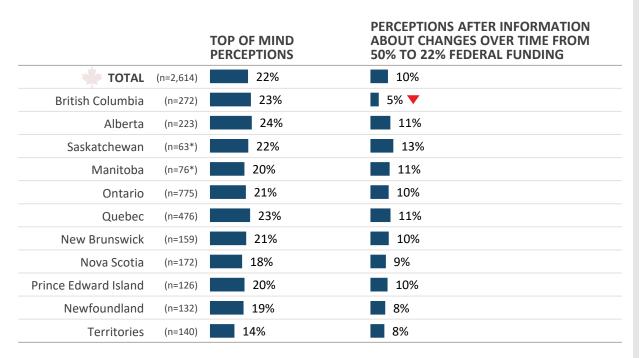
Q16. Currently, the federal government's primary role when it comes to healthcare is to provide funding to the provinces and territories which they use to directly provide health services to citizens based on their priorities. How important is it that the provinces and territories are able to allocate federal funding based on their own healthcare priorities, where '1' means it is not at all important and '10' means it is very important? Q17. The federal government has suggested it could increase healthcare funding to provinces

▲ Statistically significantly higher than Total. ▼ Statistically significantly lower than Total.





Perception of Adequacy of Federal Healthcare Funding

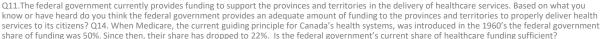


Only one-in-five Canadians feel that the federal government provides an adequate amount of funding to the provinces and territories to properly deliver health services.

Even fewer believe that the federal government's current share of healthcare funding is sufficient upon learning that funding has decreased from 50% to 22%.



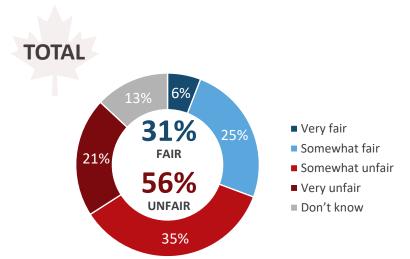


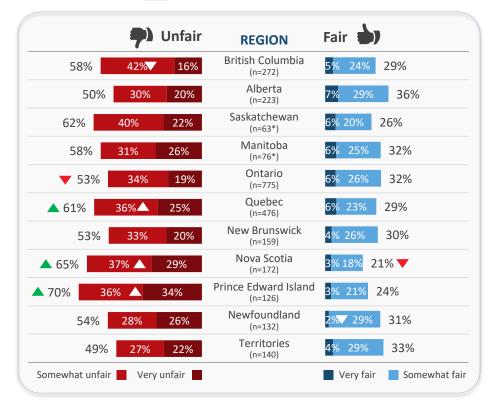




Perceived Fairness of Funding Sources

More than half of Canadians feel it is unfair that provinces and territories have to make up 78% of the cost of providing healthcare service in Canada.







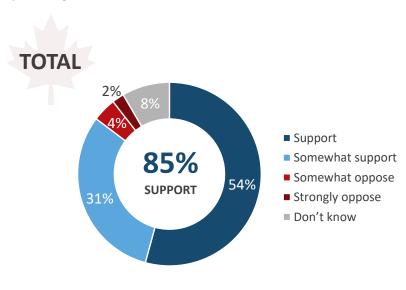


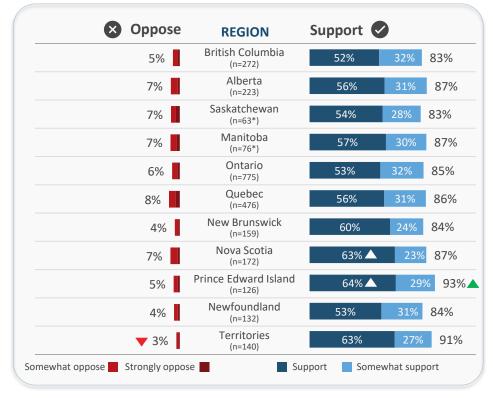
Support/Opposition for Premiers' Funding Recommendation





85% of Canadians support the premiers' healthcare funding recommendation that the federal government increase its share of healthcare funding from 22% to 35% of the overall cost of providing healthcare.

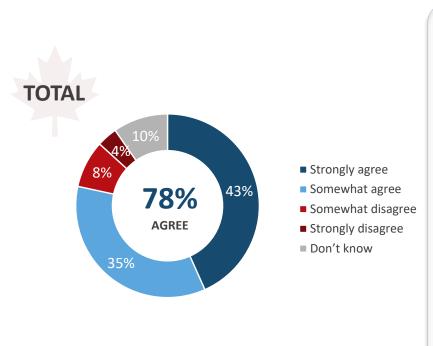




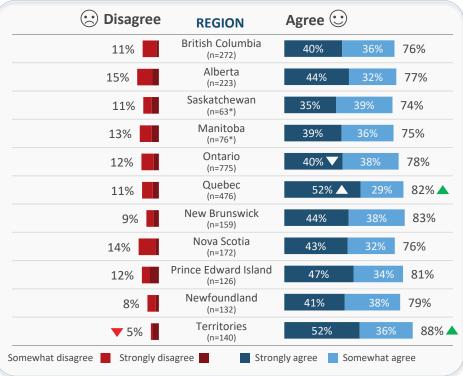




Over three-quarters of Canadians believe that federal funding has to be sustainable and maintained over time.



Base: All respondents (n=2,614). *Small sample size, interpret with caution.



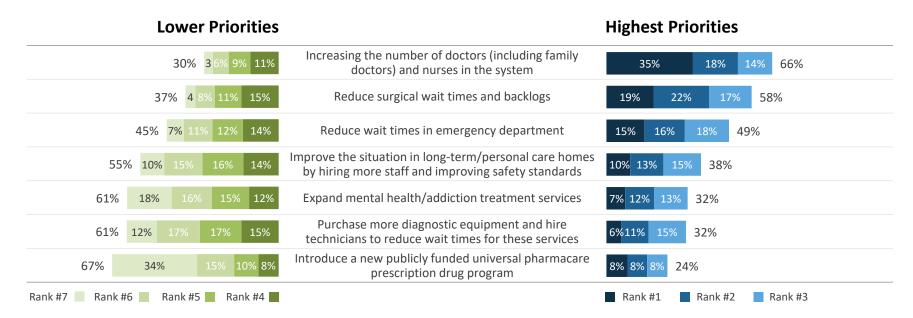






Healthcare Priorities if More Funding (Aided)

Increasing the number of doctors and nurses in the system and reducing wait times are perceived to be the most important priorities if there was more money for healthcare coming from the federal government.







Healthcare Priorities if More Funding (Aided)

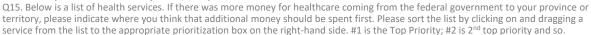
x REGION

	TOTAL	TAL REGION										
		ВС	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	TRT
HIGHEST PRIORITIES (RANK #1-3)	(n=2,614)	(n=272)	(n=223)	(n=63*)	(n=76*)	(n=775)	(n=476)	(n=159)	(n=172)	(n=126)	(n=132)	(n=180)
Increasing the number of doctors (including family doctors) and nurses in the system	66%	67%	59% 🔻	68%	58%	65%	70%	78%▲	80% 📥	81%	68%	78%
Reduce surgical wait times and backlogs	58%	57%	64% 📥	67%	63%	53% 🔻	65% 📥	50%	45% V	45% ▼	63%	49%
Reduce wait times in emergency department	49%	44%	52%	37% 🔻	53%	47%	54% 📥	48%	50%	54%	52%	38%
Improve the situation in long-term/personal care homes by hiring more staff and improving safety standards	38%	29% 🔻	26% 🔻	36%	35%	42% 📥	44% 📥	42%	26%▼	33%	24%	27%
Expand mental health/addiction treatment services	32%	37%	36%	41%	30%	33%	25% 🔻	29%	38%	42%	35%	50%
Purchase more diagnostic equipment and hire technicians to reduce wait times for these services	32%	34%	32%	24%	34%	33%	30%	30%	28%	23%▼	28%	38%
Introduce a new publicly funded universal pharmacare prescription drug program	24%	31% 📥	30% 📥	26%	26%	27% 📥	12%	23%	31%	22%	31%	20%

Provincial Top 3



Base: All respondents. *Small sample size, interpret with caution.









Attitudes Towards Healthcare Systems

85% of Canadians agree that it's urgent the federal government acts now to increase healthcare funding to fix healthcare across Canada and that the pandemic has exposed gaps and weaknesses in Canada's healthcare systems. There is also strong agreement that provinces and territories should have the flexibility to adapt healthcare funding to their specific needs.

Don't know	Disagree		Agree		
6%	8% 2	It is urgent that the federal government act now to increase healthcare funding to fix healthcare across Canada.	46%	39% 85%	
6%	9% 2	The pandemic exposed gaps and weaknesses in Canada's healthcare systems and it's time the federal government increased its share of the cost for running them.	50%	35% 85%	
7%	8% 2	The federal government should make increasing healthcare support to provinces and territories a federal budget priority in 2022.	45%	40% 84%	
7%	9% 2	Provinces and territories should have the flexibility to adapt healthcare funding to their specific needs.	40%	44% 84%	
8%	9% 2	In order for Canada's healthcare systems to keep pace with growing healthcare needs, the federal government has to significantly increase its share of the cost of running them.	42%	41% 82%	
Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	





Attitudes Towards Healthcare Systems (cont.)

Don't know	Disagree		Agree
10%	12% 9%3	The increased financial support offered during the pandemic to provinces and territories by the federal government needs to be made permanent to allow provinces and territories to stabilize and improve health services moving forward.	38% 40% 78%
8%	21% 16% 6	The federal government should provide more healthcare funding to provinces and territories without any conditions.	34% 37% 71%
22%	28% 22% 6	If the provincial and territorial share of healthcare spending continues to increase, larger provinces will have a better system and smaller provinces or territories will have a poorer health system.	16% 34% 50%
15%	48% 33% 16%	The healthcare systems in Canada are adequately funded, the money is just not spent well.	10% 26% 37%
Somewhat disa	agree Strongly disagree		Strongly agree Somewhat agree



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Attitudes Towards Healthcare Systems

x REGION

Across Canada, there is the greatest urgency expressed in Quebec and PEI for the government to fix healthcare across Canada.

	TOTAL						REGION					
		ВС	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL	TRT
TOTAL AGREE	(n=2,614)	(n=272)	(n=223)	(n=63*)	(n=76*)	(n=775)	(n=476)	(n=159)	(n=172)	(n=126)	(n=132)	(n=180)
It is urgent that the federal government act now to increase healthcare funding to fix healthcare across Canada.	85%	83%	84%	72% ▼	87%	85%	89% 📥	90%	87%	94%	88%	80%
The pandemic exposed gaps and weaknesses in Canada's healthcare systems and it's time the federal government increased its share of the cost for running them.		84%	85%	76%	84%	84%	88% 📤	87%	86%	93% 📤	84%	85%
The federal government should make increasing healthcare support to provinces and territories a federal budget priority in 2022.	84%	83%	83%	83%	85%	84%	86%	89% 📥	89%	93% 📥	85%	81%
Provinces and territories should have the flexibility to adapt healthcare funding to their specific needs.	84%	85%	84%	69%▼	76%	83%	88% 📥	84%	86%	92%▲	90%▲	79%
In order for Canada's healthcare systems to keep pace with growing healthcare needs, the federal government has to significantly increase its share of the cost of running them.	82%	84%	82%	67%▼	84%	80%▼	87%▲	85%	84%	92%▲	82%	82%









Attitudes Towards Healthcare Systems (cont.)

x REGION

Residents of smaller provinces are more likely to be concerned that if the provincial or territorial share of healthcare spending continues to increase, then they may end up with a poorer health system.

	TOTAL	AL REGION													
		ВС	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL	TRT			
TOTAL AGREE	(n=2,614)	(n=272)	(n=223)	(n=63*)	(n=76*)	(n=775)	(n=476)	(n=159)	(n=172)	(n=126)	(n=132)	(n=180)			
The increased financial support offered during the pandemic to provinces and territories by the federal government needs to be made permanent to allow provinces and territories to stabilize and improve health services moving forward.	78%	76%	79%	74%	75%	77%	81% 📥	82%	79%	84%	78%	74%			
The federal government should provide more healthcare funding to provinces and territories without any conditions.	71%	70%	71%	66%	69%	68%	75% 📥	72%	74%	72%	69%	64%			
If the provincial and territorial share of healthcare spending continues to increase, larger provinces will have a better system and smaller provinces or territories will have a poorer health system.	50%	48%	52%	63%▲	57%	47%▼	49%	65%▲	63%▲	69%▲	58%	56%			
The healthcare systems in Canada are adequately funded, the money is just not spent well.	37%	35%	42%	43%	27%	36%	37%	35%	27%▼	29%	38%	31%			





Statistically significantly higher than Total.

▼ Statistically significantly lower than Total.







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