

FEDERAL BUDGET DELIVERS BOTH HITS AND MISSES, SAYS CANADIAN PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Ottawa: May 2: Today's Federal budget offers Canadians a mix of both hits and misses, according to the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA).

"There are positives to take away from today's budget, including investments in population health, pandemic planning, support for those with disabilities and children's fitness. However, the government has also missed an opportunity to capitalize on momentum gained over the past few years in addressing critical health issues including wait times, access to services and a continuing focus on primary health care," explains Karen Hurtubise, President of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association.

As the Speech itself reflected, "Budgets say something about your motivation and goals. They say something about your priorities." "By not identifying continuing or new funding for many priority health issues, the government is failing to recognize the importance of our health system to Canadians," said Pamela Fralick, Canadian Physiotherapy Association CEO.

"The key is people," Fralick explains. "Whether the issue is wait times or access or primary health care, investing in an adequate number of qualified health providers - including physiotherapists - to meet the needs of Canadians must remain a priority for governments at all levels."

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association believes that effective planning to ensure the provision of needed health practitioners and services must be based on reliable and comprehensive data, reflect population needs, be integrated across professions and be flexible to respond to our changing health care system. The Canadian Physiotherapy Association is committed to an integrated national approach to health human resource (HHR) planning. Regrettably, this budget insufficiently recognizes this need, so eloquently articulated in the significant provincial and national reports produced in recent years.

CPA encourages all governments to ensure that access to and delivery of necessary health services – including physiotherapy - is available in their communities at the right time, in the right place and by the most appropriate professional. It is this availability to a full spectrum of services which defines the values of our country, and its health system.

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association is the voluntary organization representing more than 9,500 members and students across the country. CPA's mission is to provide leadership and direction to the physiotherapy profession, foster excellence in practice, education and research and promote high standards of health in Canada.

--30 --

Media Contact:

Anthony Fuchs

Director, Communications

Tel: 416-932-1888 or 1 800 387-8679 x 223

afuchs@physiotherapy.ca