

Agenda
October 11, 2023
Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Health Meeting
Rodd's Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

PT Ministers' Private Dinner and Art Gallery Tour – Confederation Centre of the Arts <i>Private Dinner – Mavor's Lounge – 6:30 – 8:30 PM</i> <i>Art Gallery Tour – 8:30 – 9:00 PM</i>	6:30 – 9:00
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Wednesday, October 11, 2023

PT Ministers' Private Breakfast – Provinces Room	7:00-8:15 am
All Delegates' Breakfast – Georgian Ballroom	7:00-8:15 am
Ministerial Group Photo and Media B-Roll Opportunity	8:15 – 8:30 am
Conference Commences – Victorian Room	8:30 am
1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (PEI)	8:30 – 8:40 am
2. Preparation for the FPT HMM Meeting on October 12 (PEI) – for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will review common material and discuss the agenda for the FPT HMM. This will include reviewing the agenda for the FPT HMM and seek PT perspectives on the requested decision and discussion items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health Workforce (NL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Take stock on collaborative progress in responding to health human resource challenges, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention; • Education, training and domestic recruitment; • Foreign credential recognition and ethical recruitment (including reiterating support of the WHO code of practice on the ethical recruitment of health personnel); • Advancing labour mobility; and • Health workforce and data planning. 	8:40 – 10:00 am

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A public statement and related commitments on supporting the health workforce. ○ <u>Digital Health and Health Data (PEI)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Joint FPT Action Plan to address health data commitments; and ▪ A Health Data Charter. ○ <u>Priorities and Governance for FPT Collaboration (AB)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MHSU challenges including the impacts of the toxic drug supply; ▪ Priorities for FPT collaboration including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports to individuals with complex needs; • Prevention, promotion, and services for children, youth and families; and • Increased mental health literacy. ▪ Proposed approach for FPT governance on MHSU. ○ <u>Implementation of 988-Suicide Crisis Line (AB)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministers will discuss the launch of the 988 Suicide Crisis line. ○ <u>Public Health Priorities (NB)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministers will discuss public health priorities and actions needed to ensure a strong and resilient population and health system. 	
Break – Georgian Ballroom	10:00 – 10:15 am
<p>3. Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians – presentation and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAEP will present an overview of the challenges faced by emergency departments across the country and propose evidence-based strategies to help alleviate these challenges. 	10:15 – 11:00 am
<p>4. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) (PEI) – for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will discuss challenges related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) in their respective jurisdictions. 	11:00 – 11:15 am
<p>5. Prince Edward Island Alliance for Mental Well-Being – presentation and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will hear about critical mental health issues locally, regionally and nationally, and linkages with other jurisdictions. • Ministers will learn about the national summit on drug prevention meeting and the summit dinner being held on October 12. 	11:15 – 11:45 am
<p>6. PT Communiqué Review - for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will review the draft PT communiqué 	11:45 – 12:00 pm

PT Ministers' Private Lunch – Provinces Room	12:00 – 1:00 pm
All Delegates' Lunch – Georgian Ballroom	12:00 – 1:00 pm
7. Health Sector Innovations and Best Practice Sharing (ON) – for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will have the opportunity to highlight innovations in the health sector being implemented across their jurisdictions. 	1:00 – 2:00 pm
8. Canada Health Act Interpretation Letter (QC) – for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will engage in a discussion of ongoing issues and concerns regarding the federal position on the interpretation of the Canada Health Act. 	2:00 – 2:20pm
9. Drugs for Rare Diseases / Pharmacare (QC) – for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will discuss issues related to pharmacare, focusing on drugs for rare diseases. 	2:20 – 2:40 pm
Break – Georgian Ballroom	2:40 – 2:50 pm
10. Federal Funding Agreement Updates (PEI) – for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will engage in a discussion of ongoing issues and concerns for the federal funding agreements and action plans. 	2:50 – 3:20 pm
11. PT Communiqué Review and Approval - for decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will review the draft PT communiqué. 	3:20 – 3:35 pm
12. Closing Remarks (PEI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will consider any paper items and conclude the meeting. 	3:35 – 3:45 pm
Conference Concludes	3:45 pm

Other Events:

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Canadian Blood Services Annual General Meeting – Victorian Room	4:00 – 4:45 pm
CMA Reception – Confederation Centre of the Arts	5:00 – 5:45 pm
FPT Ministers' Private Dinner – The Culinary Institute of Canada	6:30 – 8:30 pm
FPT Deputy Ministers' Private Dinner – Haviland Club	6:30 – 8:30 pm

PT Communiqué

Federal, Provincial, Territorial Health Ministers and Ministers Responsible for Mental Health and Substance Use

October 11, 2023 – Charlottetown, PEI

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI (October 11, 2023): Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health met today to address a wide range of topics. Some of these included Primary Care, Mental Health and Addictions, Health Human Resources challenges and Public Health priorities, jurisdictional preparation for upcoming changes to Medical Assistance in Dying, and next steps regarding Digital Health and Health Data. In round-table discussions, Ministers shared information about innovations within their own jurisdictions for others to consider and adapt.

Ministers also received a timely and informative presentation from the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, Ministers appreciated the insight and perspective offered by the presenters and agreed to discuss the possibility of partnering to host a national forum to discuss ways to improve emergency medicine in Canada.

Ministers also learned about the excellent work being done during a presentation from the Prince Edward Island Alliance for Mental Well-Being.

“I am honored to host Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health here, in Prince Edward Island, this week to discuss a number of important health care priorities,” said Hon. Mark McLane, Prince Edward Island’s Minister of Health and Wellness. “Collaboration and communication are key in addressing challenges across the country and improving access to health care delivery for all Canadians.”

Ministers expressed support for a collaborative working relationship with the federal government which respects the unique needs, circumstances, and priorities of each Provincial and Territorial government, to ensure all Canadians have access to high-quality health care.

Ministers especially seek accelerated whole-of-government federal actions in areas of their primary responsibility (*e.g.*, immigration and naturalization *etc.*) which will better enhance the reach and attractiveness of the recruitment/retention strategies provinces and territories are using to address health human resource challenges.

Provinces and Territories continue to share best practices to enhance their health systems, which differ across Canada in legislation, stakeholder dynamics, economic structure, and the existing care delivery infrastructure. There are no “one-size-fits-all” solutions for health care in Canada. Examples of innovation (in health human resource education and retention, interventions in mental health and primary care, the use of health data, *etc.*) assist Ministers to continue to provide the best quality services to their residents.

Ministers noted that flexibility must be a key component of the bilateral agreements being negotiated for the increased federal funding, arising from the February 7, 2023, First Ministers Meeting. Ministers reiterated their view that while aspects of some priorities lend themselves to multilateral solutions, every action by provincial and territorial governments must be grounded in the health system commitments made to their own residents. Ministers also reiterated that interventions should be assessed using a suite of sound, established performance measures.

Ministers remain committed to the principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility in the delivery of health care. Ongoing innovations in service delivery (e.g., the broad adoption of virtual care since COVID-19) fully align with these principles and illustrate how Provinces and Territories continue to fulfill their responsibility to design and manage health care delivery according to the needs and mandate of their population. Ministers agree that the federal government has a responsibility to help sustainably fund our health systems in all their diversity.

Ministers look forward to continuing these discussions with their federal colleagues tomorrow, identifying the actions within each jurisdiction's own scope which can best contribute to the shared objective of strengthening health systems for Canadians.

“Throughout this transformative time in health care is imperative that we are working together with the federal government as well as our provincial and territorial counterparts,” said Hon. Mark McLane. “I look forward to many meaningful presentations and solution-based discussions over the coming days.”

**MEETING OF FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL
HEALTH MINISTERS AND MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE**

OCTOBER 11-12, 2023
RODD HOTEL, CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI

~ Itinerary ~

Wednesday, October 11, 2023	
FPT Ministers' Private Dinner <i>Location: The Culinary Institute of Canada, 4 Sydney St</i>	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
FPT Deputy Ministers' Private Dinner <i>Location: The Haviland Club, 2 Haviland St</i>	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Thursday, October 12, 2023	
All Delegates' Breakfast <i>Location: Georgian Ballroom</i>	7:00 am – 9:00 am
Ministers' Photo <i>Location: Provinces Room or Georgian Ballroom (TBC)</i>	9:00 am – 9:10 am
FPT Ministers' Meeting <i>Location: Victoria Room</i>	9:10 am – 3:20 pm
FPT Ministers' Lunch: <i>Location: Provinces Room</i>	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
All Delegates' Lunch Location: <i>Georgian Ballroom</i>	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Intermission <i>Location: Reception Area In front of the Victorian Room</i>	3:20 pm – 3:30 pm
FPT Press Conference <i>Location: Georgian Ballroom</i>	3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

~ FPT Ministers' Meeting Agenda ~	
FPT Private Ministers' Dinner (October 11, 2023) <i>Location: The Culinary Institute of Canada, 4 Sydney St</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Plenary (October 12, 2023)	
1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (PEI/CAN)	9:10 – 9:15 am <i>(5 mins)</i>
Health System Priorities	
2. State of Health System, Progress on Shared Health Priorities and Communicating Progress to Canadians (PEI/CAN) – Discussion Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will open the meeting with a broader discussion on: the state of the health care system (with a focus on opportunities and challenges for system transformation); collaborative progress on shared health priorities; working from a whole-of-government perspective and, communicating progress and results to Canadians. 	9:15 – 10:00 am <i>(45 mins)</i>
3. Health Workforce (NL/CAN) – Approval Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will take stock on collaborative progress made in responding to cross-cutting health human resources challenges, including retention, training and domestic recruitment, collaborative approach to accelerating foreign credential recognition and ethical recruitment and advancing labour mobility, and harnessing data to advance these priorities as well as health workforce planning. • Ministers will be asked to approve a public statement and related commitments on supporting the health workforce. 	10:00 – 10:45 am <i>(45 mins)</i>
Break <i>Location: Georgian Ballroom</i>	10:45 – 10:55 am <i>(10 mins)</i>
4. Digital Health and Health Data (BC/CAN) – Approval Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will take stock of collaborative progress to improve how health data is collected, shared and used securely and ethically for the benefit of patients and public good. • Ministers will be asked to approve a Joint FPT Action Plan on Health Data, a Health Data Charter, and commitments related to interoperability standards. 	10:55 – 11:40 am <i>(45 mins)</i>

~ FPT Ministers' Meeting Agenda ~	
5. Initial Review of Communiqué (PEI/CAN) – Discussion Item	11:40 am – 12:00 pm (20 mins)
Ministers' Private Lunch <i>Location: Provinces Room</i>	12:00 – 1:00 pm (60 mins)
All Delegates' Lunch <i>Location: Georgian Ballroom</i>	12:00 – 1:00 pm (60 mins)
Mental Health and Substance Use	
6. Forward Priorities and Governance for FPT Collaboration (PEI/CAN) – Decision Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will discuss mental health and substance use (MHSU) challenges within their jurisdictions including the impacts of the toxic drug supply. • Ministers will be asked to approve the proposed forward priorities for FPT collaboration for approval including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supports to individuals with complex needs; ○ Prevention, promotion and services for children, youth, and families; and ○ Increasing mental health literacy. • Ministers will also be asked to approve a proposed approach for FPT governance on MHSU. 	1:00 – 1:40 pm (40 mins)
7. Implementation of the 988-suicide crisis line (CAN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will discuss the launch of the 988-suicide crisis line across Canada. 	1:40 – 2:00 pm (20 mins)
Additional FPT Priorities	
8. Public Health Priorities (CAN/NB) – Discussion Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers will discuss key FPT public health priorities and actions needed to ensure a strong and resilient population and health system. 	2:00 – 2:20 pm (20 mins)
Break <i>Location: Reception Area In front of the Victorian Room</i>	2:20 – 2:40 pm (20 mins)

~ FPT Ministers' Meeting Agenda ~	
Federal and Provincial/Territorial Updates and Priorities	
9. Government of Canada and PT Updates (CAN/PEI) – Discussion Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers will have opportunity to provide updates on a number of Federal and PT led priorities, including Medical Assistance in Dying and Drugs for Rare Diseases. 	2:40 – 3:05 pm <i>(25 mins)</i>
10. Finalization of Communiqué (PEI/CAN) – For Approval	3:05 – 3:15 pm <i>(10 mins)</i>
11. Closing Remarks (PEI/CAN)	3:15 – 3:20 pm <i>(5 mins)</i>
~ Adjournment ~	
Intermission <i>Location: Reception Area In front of the Victorian Room</i>	3:20 – 3:30 pm <i>(10 mins)</i>
Press conference <i>Location: Provinces Georgian Ballroom</i>	3:30 – 4:00 pm <i>(30 mins)</i>
End of Conference	

FPT Communique: Federal, Provincial, Territorial Health Ministers' and Ministers Responsible for Mental Health and Addiction

From: [Health Canada](#)

Statement

Today, Canada's Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Health and Ministers responsible for mental health and addiction concluded a successful meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Ministers held productive discussions on shared priorities, including the health workforce, health data, mental health and addiction, and public health.

All governments are taking action. Governments are making significant investments to improve the health care services Canadians and their families rely on. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to working collaboratively on the *Working Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians* plan and the shared priorities of expanding access to family health services; supporting our health workers and reducing backlogs; increasing support for mental health and addiction services, and modernizing Canada's health care systems. ^{Footnote*} All governments are collaborating based on the principle of mutual respect for each government's roles and responsibilities including exclusive provincial and territorial jurisdiction for the planning, organization and management of their health care systems.

As a country, our health care system is facing the most significant moment of challenge but also of opportunity. Health care system transformation requires all levels of government to come together to support health and mental wellness by investing in the social determinants of health.

Ministers are also working to help Canadians age with dignity, closer to home, with access to home care or in a safe long-term care facility.

Health Workforce

The health workforce is the backbone of health care systems and further actions are required to address the challenges health professionals are facing. During their meeting today, Ministers discussed the progress made to date on health workforce challenges and committed to strategies to address ongoing priorities including:

- **Health workforce retention** through the creation of a Nursing Retention Toolkit that will provide concrete tools and guides to employers to create work environments where nurses feel supported and want to stay in their jobs. Ministers also met with nursing stakeholders in the morning where they heard from the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions on the importance of exploring solutions to reduce the reliance on agency nurses by stabilizing the nursing workforce;
- **Education and training** by improving our understanding of the supply and demand of health workers needed now and in the future. As part of this work, Ministers commit to explore strategies and initiatives to support the inclusion, recruitment and retention of Indigenous Peoples in health human resources. They also reaffirmed their support for the medical residency requirement for family medicine to remain at two years. Ministers reiterated the importance of having the Canadian residency match occur on a more timely basis to ensure the best opportunities for medical graduates who wish to train in Canada;
- **Making sure internationally educated health professionals** can get to work more quickly in Canada, through streamlining foreign credential recognition, providing new pathways for qualified professionals in the health field, and committing to ethical recruitment from other countries. This includes a commitment from the Government of Canada to continue to take action through federal immigration programs to make it easier for foreign trained health workers to immigrate to and obtain residency in Canada;
- **Advancing labour mobility** for physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals so they can practice across jurisdictions without significant delays or the need to meet additional requirements; and
- **Strengthening health workforce data and planning** through a new Centre of Excellence for the Future of the Health Workforce which will make sure planners have the information they need to ensure there are health workers to meet the needs of Canadians now and in the future.

To advance this work, Ministers approved a [statement and related commitments on supporting the health workforce](#).

Digital Health and Health Data

Canadians expect their health information is easily and securely accessible to them and their health care providers through modern and digitally connected health care systems, built with the strongest privacy standards.

Ministers approved a Joint FPT Action Plan on Health Data and Digital Health, which provides a path forward for working together over the coming years:

- **Collecting and sharing high-quality and comparable depersonalized information** to measure progress being made through common indicators to improve health care for Canadians;
- **Adopting common interoperability standards** guided by the [Pan-Canadian Interoperability Roadmap](#) to better connect health care systems and allow Canadians and their health care providers to securely access electronic health information to improve care;
- **Promoting alignment between provincial and territorial health data policies and legislative frameworks** for consistent approaches to health information management and stewardship that maintains appropriate privacy protections;
- **Advancing common principles for the management of health data** through endorsement of a [Pan-Canadian Health Data Charter](#) that reaffirms a commitment to a person-centered, ethical approach to health data, public engagement, equity and Indigenous data sovereignty; and
- **Collecting and sharing public health data** to support Canada's preparedness and response to public health events.

Ministers agreed to continue to work collaboratively to advance the Action Plan, while respecting that differing health information systems and capacities exist across provinces and territories. As these efforts proceed, Canadians can be assured that the collecting and sharing of depersonalized information will ensure safeguards are in place to protect personal information.

Mental Health and Addiction

Canada faces continued challenges related to mental health and addiction, including the overdose and addiction crisis. Ministers responsible for Mental Health and Addiction discussed new, innovative approaches and promising practices that are culturally appropriate being undertaken across the country. They highlighted their ongoing collaboration to support Canadians with mental health and addiction issues, including promotion and prevention, intervention, harm reduction building toward treatment and recovery supports and services in the community. Ministers spoke of efforts to reduce stigma and work to equip Canadians with the knowledge and skills to take care of their mental health. Ministers committed to priorities for FPT collaboration, including supports to individuals with complex needs; building mental health and wellbeing through prevention, promotion and services for children, youth and families; and improving public awareness of mental health concerns and available supports and decreasing stigma.

To ensure people across Canada have access to suicide crisis and emotional distress supports, a new easy to remember three-digit number will be available in Canada on November 30, 2023. The 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline will offer trauma-informed and culturally appropriate support 24 hours a day, in English and French, by phone and text. Ministers discussed preparations for a successful launch and implementation of this

important pan-Canadian initiative, that will link services already existing in province or territory.

Public Health Priorities

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant and ongoing impact on the health, social and economic well-being of people in Canada. The lessons learned from the pandemic have highlighted the essential strengths of public health and health care systems, and have exposed gaps that need to be resolved.

Ministers committed to continue working together towards a sustainable and integrated approach to public health that will promote health, prevent disease and better protect Canadians against future public health threats.

Conclusion

Canadians deserve health care systems that they can rely on to provide health care for them and their loved ones. Ministers will continue working together to improve health care systems, taking into consideration the social determinants of health, and the health and well-being of all Canadians.

*Manitoba remains in a caretaker period and is not a party to this communiqué.