



What if
you could help
create a
**HEALTHIER
CANADA?**



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

What if all public and private healthcare stakeholders could access scientifically validated evidence and unbiased, actionable solutions to address the major health challenges affecting Canadians?

What if leading Canadian experts in health and biomedical sciences could be mobilized quickly to provide this high quality analysis and advice?

**THE RESULT
WOULD BE A
HEALTHIER CANADA!**

FACING CANADA'S HEALTH CHALLENGES HEAD ON.

Canada faces mounting complex health challenges such as stem cell and regenerative medicine technologies, global disease threats, inadequate treatments for mental health conditions and many more chronic disorders. The spectre of unsustainable costs looms with the rising prevalence of dementia and the demands of personalized medicine. We must urgently confront inequities in services for our most vulnerable populations including Indigenous Peoples, new immigrants and those living in poverty or geographic isolation. Canada's newest war veterans returned home with major mental and physical health issues we are ill equipped to address. Health informatics and 'big data' have created new questions about privacy as we converge large datasets to enable meaningful analytics. The opportunity to 'federalize' key components of the health system such as drug cost coverage requires evidence-based decision-making.

Canada's university-based academics can serve Canadians by offering their collective, expert analysis and inter-disciplinary thinking to arrive at creative and feasible solutions to these challenges. The necessary renewal of Canada's health system policy and transformation of practice to improve health outcomes while reducing costs depend on it.

OUR IMPACT ON CANADIAN HEALTHCARE.

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) brings together Canada's top-ranked health and biomedical scientists and scholars from all disciplines across our nation's universities, healthcare and research institutes to make a positive impact on the urgent health concerns of Canadians. These Fellows evaluate Canada's most complex health challenges and recommend strategic, actionable solutions.

Since 2006 the CAHS has successfully engaged a wide variety of public and private organizations. These sponsors represent patients and families, professionals, health system leaders, policy-makers, NGOs, philanthropic organizations and private industry providers. They have co-invested in rigorous, independent assessments that address key health issues with outcomes that have shaped their strategic policy and initiatives. Our common goal is to provide advice as the authoritative, informed voice that helps put change into action for a healthier Canada.

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CANADA'S HEALTH SYSTEM IS EXPENSIVE AND UNDER PERFORMING COMPARED TO 34 OECD COUNTRIES.



Health expenditures as a % of GDP are the **8th highest**



Canada ranks **low** in terms of health outcomes: 30 out of 34 for age-standardized cardiovascular mortality rates

2015 health expenditures reached \$219.1B with a relentless upward trend in absolute cost.*



*Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information

“ Scalable, cost-effective solutions continue to elude the grasp of our health system—an issue top of mind for governments and stakeholders. ”

CAHS Fellows

CAHS pledges to serve Canadians by volunteering the time and expertise of our Fellows by conducting independent, unbiased, expert assessments on health-related topics of major importance to Canada. Assessments involve understanding what we know—and more importantly—what we do not know about the science underlying an issue. They define questions that remain unanswered, establish a holistic view of complex issues and examine the validity of the science informing them.

The CAHS engages the expertise of Fellows from all major health sciences and related disciplines to pursue **three major goals**:

1

Conduct evidence-based assessments of key health challenges requiring detailed, multi-disciplinary expert research and analysis;

2

Seek stakeholder sponsors from public and private sectors who share concern with our Fellows about critical health and biomedical science challenges affecting Canadians; and,

3

Collaborate with our stakeholder sponsors to publicize actionable options from our assessments meant to inform decision-making about health policy, practice and investment changes.





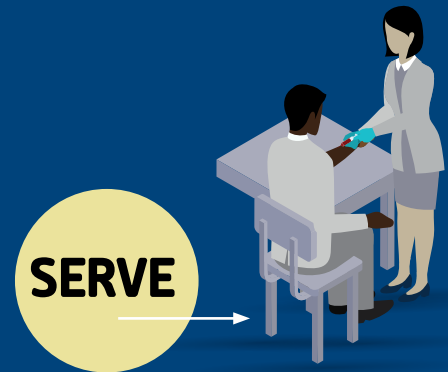
OUR CAHS FELLOWS



CAHS Fellows (577 as of 2015) are nominated by their institutions and peers and selected in a competitive process based on their internationally recognized leadership, academic performance, scientific creativity and willingness to serve Canada.



Induction into the CAHS is considered one of the highest honours within Canada's academic community.



Fellows serve as unpaid volunteers.

“ The CAHS promotes the use of sound, scientific evidence to inform decision-making and actionable options to address critical health challenges in Canada. ”

OUR HISTORY.

Until the 21st century, the societies of top-ranked academics in Canada played a very limited role in providing expert advice to Canadians. In 2004, the Federal Government committed to creating a national alliance of academic societies. The purpose was to establish a process whereby experts from all disciplines including science, arts and humanities, engineering, health and biomedical sciences could provide timely, evidence-based analysis to inform public policy development. With the establishment of the Council of Canadian Academies (CCA), a key member representing the health and biomedical sciences emerged from the former Canadian Institute of Academic Medicine. This new organization, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), was fashioned after the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in the USA, to provide independent, objective, evidence-based analyses of health challenges that inform both public and private sectors in decision-making about policy, practice and investment.





INTERACT

Fellows interact with global authorities and sponsors at the CAHS Annual Scientific Forum to illuminate a health-related topic of urgent concern to Canadians.

OUR PROMISE TO CANADIANS.

OUR MISSION:

CAHS mobilizes the best scientific minds to provide independent and timely assessments that inform policy and practice addressing critical health challenges affecting Canadians.

OUR VISION:

Informed, actionable solutions that improve the health of Canadians.

OUR VALUES:

CAHS is:

- Collaborative
- Unbiased
- Transparent
- Expert
- Strategic
- Independent





OUR CORE ACTIVITIES.

Major Assessments

Topic Selection

Assessment topics may arise from a specific request from government, a public or private foundation, another agency, or from within the CAHS membership. Topics also emerge from the CAHS Annual Forum of its Fellows. The CAHS Standing Committee on Assessments works closely with those who advanced the topic to articulate the right question(s) to be addressed during an assessment.

Prospectus

Once a detailed prospectus is developed, the most recognized international leaders and knowledgeable experts on the subject are recruited from among CAHS Fellows and the global scientific community to serve on the Expert Panel for the Assessment. Great care is taken to ensure no member of the Panel has an actual or perceived conflict of interest. The Panel commits to conducting an unbiased, in-depth analysis of all existing evidence, drawing conclusions to formulate recommendations that contain actionable options. Panel members serve as volunteers – they receive no compensation for panel activities.

Peer Review

The draft assessment report undergoes a rigorous peer-review by another group of experts resulting in further refinement, clarity and the highest quality report. The report is then officially launched and freely available on the CAHS website (<http://cahs-acss.ca/>).

Sponsorship

Major assessments conducted by the CAHS typically require sponsorship from external stakeholders including NGOs (professional societies, academic and health institutions, private foundations), governments (provincial and federal) and private sector donors. Sponsors have input into the framing of the question but have no involvement in the assessment process or influence on the outcomes.

THE CRITERIA USED BY THE CAHS TO IDENTIFY A TOPIC INCLUDES CONFIRMING THE:

1

Consistency with the mission of the CAHS;

2

Timeliness, relevance and importance in the public domain;

3

Usefulness for informing policy-making by governments and other stakeholders;

4

Value to the sponsor(s);

5

Abundance of existing knowledge to enable decision-making; and,

6

Opportunity for developing actionable options.

THE STORY OF A MAJOR ASSESSMENT

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) IN HEALTH RESEARCH: DEFINING THE BEST METRICS

In 2007 the Board resolved to develop a major assessment evaluating the ROI in health research. This topic had wide appeal, addressed an unmet need, possessed genuine potential for future impact, and positioned the CAHS as an independent, authoritative voice on health-related challenges.

An outstanding panel of leading international experts refined the principal question: *What is the best method to evaluate the impacts of health research in Canada, and are there “best metrics” that could be used to assess (and improve) those impacts?* The question was addressed by extensive review of the global literature. The subsequent report set out a series of actionable recommendations on how any organization could measure and consistently report the ROI of their health research outcomes. It provided a new standard and measurement tools that facilitate genuine accountability to funders of health research.

The release of the ROI Assessment Report has been transformative. Many of the sponsors have included the metrics for ROI in their strategic plans. The uptake continues today by provincial research foundations including Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, as well as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The concept of ROI on research investment has become standard practice for measuring performance and accountability.

BY 2025 WE ASPIRE TO:

BE THE GO-TO

Be the 'go-to' resource for scientific advice on options that address health-related questions of critical concern to Canadians;

BECOME THE VOICE

Become Canada's ambassador and authoritative voice for health science on the international stage.

CLOSE THE GAP

Assume responsibility for closing the knowledge translation gap between evidence and improved health policy and program strategies;

BE RECOGNIZED

Be internationally recognized as the organization that has major impact on improving decision-making about health-related challenges in Canada; and,

Cast-in-the-Canadian Context

In addition to major assessments, the CAHS conducts more focused analytic reports of topics that have undergone evidence-based assessment in other countries that have relevance once they are cast-in-the-Canadian-context. Usually a single sponsor supports this type of assessment. Similar to the major assessment, an independent chair and panel are recruited by the CAHS and the outcomes are generated without sponsor influence. This activity enhances the interaction between the CAHS and similar Academies in other countries for exchange of knowledge and experience.

THE FUTURE OF THE CAHS.

The need for the CAHS is more compelling than ever as Canada faces significant health challenges.

We have created an exciting value-add for decision-makers by providing an inventory of expertise and a readiness to address urgent health matters to inform government and the public on key health related issues. Our Fellows serve the CAHS as unpaid volunteers.

CAHS Fellows are uniquely poised to provide expert guidance to all stakeholders on urgent health questions and make an immediate impact on policy that positively affects the health and wellbeing of all Canadians. Our intent is to expand and nurture relationships through international academies committed to improving health worldwide. Our Fellows represent Canadian health science and continually scan the globe in an effort to collect and report on worldwide innovations that could benefit Canadians.



OUR FINANCIAL NEED.

The CAHS has the potential to conduct a larger number of timely assessments vital to the future health and wellbeing of Canadians. However, our ability to serve Canada is constrained by a lack of multi-year funding to support sufficient personnel and the permanent infrastructure required to fulfill the full potential of this critical mission.

Increasing our project management and research staff to assist our Assessments Committee and the expert panel members in their detailed review and report preparation would enable the CAHS to attract and partner more effectively with external stakeholder sponsors and significantly reduce the cost of each assessment. **The long-term net benefit to Canada's health sector—and ultimately the health of Canadians—would be substantial!**

How you can help.

To date, the CAHS has relied on modest revenues from membership dues (now reaching \$100,000 per year) and one-time-only funds received from assessments or annual forum sponsors (total of ~ \$2.7million to date). CAHS currently receives no additional federal funding.

Our goal is to obtain additional annual revenues that will enable us to:

- Conduct two assessments per year at an estimated annual total cost of \$1 to 1.5 million;
- Establish a permanent trust fund of \$5 million to support the activities of our Fellows in service to Canada; and,
- Expand our mission to include multi-disciplinary working groups of Fellows on specific topics of interest, roundtables that encourage dialogue with public and private stakeholders, improved communication and dissemination of expert advice.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT A HEALTHIER CANADA.

The CAHS relies on collaboration and generous support from a wide cross section of stakeholders. In order to continue our vital work aimed at tackling Canada's complex health challenges head on, we require critical funding support from the following stakeholders:

- **Federal and Provincial Governments:** multi-year infrastructure support for health and biomedical assessments targeting recommendations and solutions-oriented advice on behalf of Canadians.
- **Public Sponsors:** provinces, NGOs, health-related foundations and institutes are uniquely positioned to benefit from expendable sponsorships supporting the CAHS annual forum which generates timely dialogue and advances important questions for specific assessments aimed at creating actionable results for Canadian healthcare.
- **Private Philanthropists and Foundations:** donations toward a CAHS capital investment trust fund to generate a permanent source of funding in support of the activities of the CAHS Fellows and their engagement in providing timely advice on urgent health issues.



We can
help make a
**HEALTHIER
CANADA!**

HELP US CREATE A HEALTHIER CANADA!

Please contact us today to learn
how you, or your organization
can help the CAHS better serve
our country and improve the
future health and wellbeing
of Canadians.

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