



ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA
COLLÈGE ROYAL
DES MÉDECINS ET CHIRURGIENS DU CANADA

Federal Election 2025

Key Messages



Federal action is needed now to improve health care for Canadians — Election 2025

Specialist physicians support patients facing complex, chronic, urgent, and life-threatening health conditions. However, specialists can only do so much within a system that lags behind those of many other countries.

Election 2025 is the opportunity for federal politicians to show their commitment to improving health care in Canada.

Election priorities

The Royal College is calling for action in **three areas** to improve access to care in Canada.



Increase Health System Capacity

Issue: all parties must ensure access to both primary and specialty care across the country including in rural and remote areas as well as in Indigenous and underserved communities.

What's needed: Increase capacity of health care providers to care for patients through a commitment to team-based health care as well as by addressing challenges within specialty medicine that are impacting primary care. Reducing internal barriers to practice mobility and establishing a pan-Canadian medical licence will also help improve health care access.



Advance Reconciliation in Health care

Issue: all parties must advance reconciliation and reduce health inequities by ensuring Indigenous patients receive timely health care. All parties must also address systemic racism in the health care system and ensure funding to medical schools and organizations to support Indigenous physicians.

What's needed: Ensure that work to increase capacity of the health system in Indigenous communities and address the toxic drug crisis in these communities is Indigenous led. Provide funding to provide continued support to Indigenous learners and physicians and ensure all internationally educated physicians receive cultural safety training. Simplify administrative processes for Jordan's principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative, as well as health provider payment systems, to ensure Indigenous patients receive timely health care and reduce providers' administrative burden.



Address the continuing toxic drug crisis

Issue: all parties must tackle the fentanyl crisis, which has morphed into a toxic drug emergency, that disproportionately impacts Indigenous and rural and remote communities.

What's needed: Continue to support education and awareness around safe prescribing of opioids, while increasing the capacity of the health system to treat patients with a substance use disorder. Provide mental health, housing, and community supports for overdose prevention, including Indigenous-designed and led programs and services, culturally appropriate care, and additional support for rural and remote communities.