

Sustainability & Resilience in the Canadian Health System

The Path to Public Trust, Participation and Preparedness



Strengthening the governance of our healthcare system is key to ensuring Canadians can continue to rely on quality services when they need them. A new research report from The Partnership for Health System Sustainability and Resilience (PHSSR) in Canada used existing data along with conversations with key stakeholders to assess the current landscape and identify opportunities to build a better healthcare system for the future.

Canada's Healthcare System Governance at a Glance

The network of inter-governmental relations that steers our healthcare system is extensive and complex—which can make it difficult to ensure sustainability in the long term and resilience to shocks. Researchers and policy makers charged with making critical decisions can't easily find or access the health and social data they need to do so. Between levels of government, even well-established mechanisms to support governance are sometimes under-used, and key voices (including patients, citizens and employees) aren't always adequately consulted and heard. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, gaps in healthcare governance can make it difficult to anticipate, plan for and respond to crises.

3 Examples of Actions Worth Taking



Bolster collaboration by streamlining and consolidating existing intergovernmental mechanisms

It's time to conduct a comprehensive review of the committees, pan-Canadian organizations and networks involved in healthcare governance. The more we can bring the right stakeholders to work more closely together, the better we'll be able to anticipate and respond to a rapidly changing environment.



Prioritize engagement with all citizens

The healthcare system exists to serve Canadians. They deserve greater transparency in decision-making and the opportunity to contribute their ideas and feedback. This includes recognizing and addressing the inequities facing Indigenous peoples and other racialized and marginalized communities. Broader public consultations could be the foundation for more effort to report publicly on the healthcare system's performance and creating more responsive health systems.



Champion the strategic use of healthcare data

An expert advisory group has already made strong recommendations to develop a pan-Canadian Health Data Strategy. Closing the gaps in how data is currently collected, managed and shared will help institutions and all levels of government to ensure their decisions are well-informed, consistent and in alignment with each other.

There are **seven domains** researched in this study:

- GOVERNANCE
- FINANCE
- WORKFORCE
- TECHNOLOGY & MEDICINE
- SERVICE DELIVERY
- SOCIAL DETERMINANTS
- ENVIRONMENT

Learn more about the research findings and key recommendations by reading the full report, *Sustainability and Resilience in the Canadian Health System*, or contact the PHSSR at PHSSR@hkstrategies.ca

