

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

CNA believes that any proposals for improving the system must be subjected to analysis from both economic and ethical perspectives. CNA proposes, therefore, the following framework of goals for the Canadian health system:

- offer universal access to an adequate level of care;
- not impose excessive burdens on its users;
- embody a fair distribution of the costs of accessing the system and the burdens of rationing care; and
- be capable of reform and improvement towards a perfectly just system.

CNA recommends that the health system shift to emphasize:

1. Preventive care
2. Implementation of a human resource strategy for the health workforce
3. Creating more points of entry into the health system
4. Multi-disciplinary education, practice and research
5. Flexibility to evolve with the changing health needs of Canadians.

CNA recommends that the publicly-funded health system be broadened to include primary healthcare, homecare, diagnostic care and treatment care, including pharmaceuticals.

CNA recommends that the health system be strengthened through investments in information infrastructure, in research and surveillance and in evaluation of national and international clinical practice.

CNA recommends that the health system be designed to support the achievement of national health care objectives.

CNA believes that predictable and stable financing is a prerequisite for the effective planning and sustainability of the health system.

Further, CNA believes the current financing mechanisms for the health system must be rethought. CNA recommends that the CHST transfers be supplemented by mechanisms, which would support universal access to homecare, long-term care and other programs.

CNA believes patient care will benefit from:

- technological supports needed to electronically deliver nursing education and continuing education;
- development of electronic testing capacity for certification exams;
- identification, updating, and dissemination of national standards of practice;
- training and development of nursing leaders and senior decision-makers;
- improving working conditions;
- expansion of the accreditation program in acute care facilities to track and report on indicators related to working conditions; and
- continuous evaluation of the results of health services and modes of care in terms of population health outcomes.

CNA recommends that the federal government facilitate recruitment of new nurses by:

- eliminating tuition costs for students and
- enhancing the capacity of universities to educate nursing students.

CNA recommends that health care providers and allied health workers pursue new ways of working together to improve health outcomes.

CNA believes that mechanisms linking governments – national, provincial, regional – with health experts and with consumers are key to maintaining the relevance and responsiveness of the system. Further, we believe Canada must look beyond its borders for research results, best practices, and surveillance information that can improve our health system and give early warning of emerging trends the system will have to address.

CNA recommends the creation of a National Health Council to monitor the implementation of the principles of the Canada Health Act and to adjudicate consumer disputes related to the provision of health services.