

VIA EMAIL

July 7, 2026

Canada's Provincial and Territorial Premiers
C/O Council of the Federation Secretariat
360 Albert Street, Suite 630
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7X7

**Re: Recommendation to prioritize accelerating access to cancer medicines at the July
Council of the Federation meeting**

Dear Honourable Premiers,

On behalf of the Cancer Clinician Advocacy Forum (CCAF), we are writing in advance of the Council of the Federation meeting in Charlottetown to ensure that accelerating access to new cancer treatments remains a shared provincial priority.

CCAF is a national network of frontline cancer clinicians working to reduce barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment, improve efficiencies in cancer care, and address human resource constraints. For cancer patients, delays in access to optimal care can mean disease progression, avoidable morbidity and reduced quality of life.

Across Canada, cancer patients continue to face significant delays (or complete barriers) in accessing new cancer medicines through provincial/territorial drug plans following approval by Health Canada. These delays, driven by sequential review, negotiation, funding, and implementation processes, vary by jurisdiction and result in inequitable access depending on where a patient lives. In 2025, the median time from Health Canada approval to public funding for cancer medicines was 15 months, with timelines varying significantly across provinces and territories (IQVIA Canada 2026). We are also increasingly concerned about the effects of the U.S. most favored nation (MFN) drug pricing policy. Early analysis suggests that MFN may be driving a much higher rate of failed negotiations at the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance stage (pCPA 2026). This would block or at least further delay public access for medicines that have received positive evaluations from Canada's Drug Agency and/or Quebec's Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS).

We appreciate the Council of the Federation's previous commitment to improving access to medicines and recent efforts by Canadian governments and the pCPA to address delays and coverage gaps. Building on this foundation, we encourage you to take further coordinated action to

reduce access timelines and ensure Canadians can benefit from new cancer treatments as quickly as possible.

In this context, CCAF recommends that provinces and territories work together to:

- Expand pCPA's Early Negotiation Pathway to include all oncology drugs granted Priority Review by Health Canada to ensure life-saving and life-extending medicines move more quickly through price negotiations
- Adopt or scale expedited funding pathways across Canada, such as Ontario's FAST model, to enable earlier patient access following Health Canada's approval
- Establish a shared expectation or benchmark for timely funding decisions across jurisdictions, to reduce interprovincial inequities in access
- Respond to MFN-related launch and negotiation pressures by creating a coordinated provincial and territorial contingency plan for cancer medicines, including early horizon scanning, rapid clinical input, and interim access mechanisms where delays could leave patients without timely treatment options

These actions would help reduce avoidable delays, improve equity across jurisdictions, decrease pressure on the health system, and ensure Canadian cancer patients can benefit from advances in care as quickly as possible.

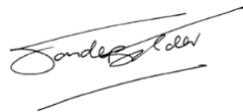
We encourage you to prioritize this issue at the July Council of Federation meeting and to advance concrete, coordinated action across Canada.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We would welcome the opportunity to support this work as it moves forward.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nancy Nixon



Dr. Sandeep Sehdev

Co-Chairs, CCAF

On behalf of all CCAF members

CCAF Members

Dr. Aalok Kumar (BC)	Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung (Ontario)
Dr. Amirrtha Srikanthan (Ontario)	Dr. Mita Manna (Saskatchewan)
Dr. Andréanne Leblanc (Quebec)	Dr. Moira Rushton-Marovac (Ontario)
Dr. Arif Awan (Ontario)	Dr. Nancy Nixon (Alberta)
Dr. Brandon Sheffield (Ontario)	Dr. Nathalie Daaboul (Quebec)
Dr. Catriona Buick, RN (Ontario)	Dr. Nathaniel Bouganim (Quebec)
Dr. Christa Slatnick (Manitoba)	Dr. Olexiy Aseyev (Ontario)
Dr. Cyrus Hsia (Ontario)	Dr. Rebecca Auer (Ontario)
Dr. David Stewart (Ontario)	Dr. Rosalyn Juergens (Ontario)
Dr. Elizabeth Faour (Newfoundland)	Dr. Sandeep Sehdev (Ontario)
Dr. Guy Desmarais (Ontario)	Dr. Scott Edwards (Newfoundland)
Dr. Haider Samawi (Ontario)	Dr. Sharlene Gill (BC)
Dr. Hamid Mithoowani (Ontario)	Dr. Silvana Spadafora (Ontario)
Dr. Jason Wentzell (Ontario)	Stephanie LeLond, RN (Manitoba)
Dr. Joanna Gotfrit (Ontario)	Dr. Stephanie Snow (Nova Scotia)
Dr. Joy Greenland (Newfoundland)	Dr. Vladimir Djedovic (Ontario)
Dr. Karen Gelmon (BC)	Dr. Yvette Drew (BC)
Dr. Martin Chasen (Ontario)	