



Your Candidates.
Your Health.

Election 2015



Advocacy Messages

Health research and the innovations derived from it hold the key to improved health and quality of life for Canadians.

401-17 York St.
Ottawa, ON
K1N 5S7

www.rc-rc.ca

info@rc-rc.ca

613-234-5129

Investing in the health of our citizens is the single most important decision we can make as a country to both increase the well being of Canadians and to build a robust economy. Growing our economy will be dependent upon a healthy and well-trained Canadian workforce generating innovations that give this country a competitive advantage in the global economy.

Toward this end, and if you are successful in your bid to be elected to the Parliament of Canada in the 2015 Federal Election, we ask that, in your (new) portfolio, you advocate for the following:

Message 1: Ensure sustained, predictable and globally competitive support for excellence in health discovery research by doubling the budget for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).¹

Rationale for Message 1:

An innovative economy is built on excellence in knowledge creation and on the exploitation of the unpredictable fraction of that knowledge with commercial or direct social value. We must strengthen the commitment to basic science, which is the bedrock of discovery, innovation, commercialization and patient-oriented research, by ensuring the CIHR has consistent and sufficient funding to retain and support the productivity of top-flight talent while cultivating the next generation of scientific leadership.

Message 2: Develop public policies that catalyse private sector investments in health R&D.

Rationale for Message 2:

Research Canada agrees that Canada must find ways to attract its share of global investment in R&D and create the conditions for a flourishing Canadian health technology industry that supports successful, home-grown small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), generates and retains high-quality jobs and creates wealth in Canada.

Successfully filtering ideas through the rigours of testing and validation requires a capital, regulatory and intellectual property environment that values and supports the risk-taking involved in innovation.

“The real conclusion of a research study is to see it used every day in the clinic.”

**- Dr. David Hill, Scientific Director,
Lawson Health Research Institute,
London, Ontario**

The ability to capitalize on Canada's strengths and address the challenges the country faces, depends on the Federal Government carrying out its unique role in funding health discovery research consistently and sufficiently over time and ensuring that all aspects of the innovation ecosystem, including policies that enhance private sector investments in health R&D, are supported.

¹ The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is Canada's federal funding agency for health research. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 13,700 health researchers and trainees across Canada.